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WOMEN'S NERVES AS A NATIONAL ASSET

The Common Cause

OF HUMANITY.

The Organ of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.

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[The National Union does not hold itself responsible for opinions expressed in signed articles.]

Notes and News.

The New Government and Women.

Mr. Lloyd George's speech contains no reference to the Franchise question. It is impossible, however, for the Government to remain long without making some pronouncement on this subject. It is reported that some members have resigned from the Speaker's Conference, and their places must be filled if it is the intention of the Government that the Conference should continue its work. Obviously it would be useless to make fresh appointments or to continue the work unless it is the intention of the new Ministry to make use of the Conference report when completed.

An Imperial Conference.

Two points in the Prime Minister's speech are of great importance to women. The first is the statement which deals with the question of the Dominions. "The Dominions," says Mr. Lloyd George, "have recognised throughout that our fight was not a selfish one, and that there were great world issues in which their children were as concerned in as ours. The time has come when the Dominions ought to be more formally consulted as to the progress and course of the war, as to the steps that ought to be taken to secure victory, and as to the best methods of garnering its fruits. At an early date, therefore, an Imperial Conference is to be summoned to place the whole position before the Dominions, to take counsel with them as to what further action we can take together in order to achieve an early and complete triumph for the ideals which they share with us." From all the ends of the earth, therefore, the grandchildren of Britain will be summoned to confer as to her destiny and their own; let it not be forgotten that these representatives from overseas will in truth represent the whole of the young nations from whence they come—nations which have endeavoured more honestly than our own to fulfil the "ideals which they share with us," the ideals of democracy and of free and representative government. Unlike the representatives of the old country, these free sons of free mothers will speak for the women as well as for the men in the countries from whence they come; the old anti-suffrage argument that the voters in our own Colonies had little more responsibility than the voters for a county council election at home goes to the winds. Is it possible that there will still be found objectors who will be willing that the women from over-seas should have their voice in councils of peace and war, while the women of Great Britain, on whom has fallen the greater share of the burden of work and sacrifice, are to be excluded from all share in the deliberations of our rulers?

Universal National Service.

The second point in Mr. Lloyd George's speech which touches women is that which deals with universal national service. The Premier appeals to the nation as a whole (since without its help he can accomplish nothing) to assist in carrying on the war to a triumphant issue. Schemes of very great magnitude have been formulated, and are being put into operation; it has been decided that the time has come for the adoption of the principle of universal service. There is to be a register of war workers, and if it is found impossible to get the numbers required, the Cabinet will come to Parliament and ask for powers to make the plan really effective. In other words, there is to be, if necessary, industrial conscription, for the nation is entitled to the best services of all its members. It must be concluded that women will be enrolled under this scheme. A Prime Minister who is also a Suffragist can scarcely speak of the whole nation without including the larger half of it. The principle of universal national service will be neither universal nor national if women are left out. What, then, is to be the attitude of the Government in approaching the women from whom they demand national work? Is it as free citizens that they invite their co-operation, or is it as mere useful machines, to be used as slaves are used, who have no real interest in the State which they serve, and to be thrown aside when their services are no longer required? Not thus will the most willing service be obtained; let the Government acknowledge, when it takes the step proposed, that it asks for the labours of men and women on equal terms, that equality in work, in self-denial, and in suffering must inevitably mean equality of opportunities and of rights, and let them take the earliest opportunity of making those rights secure.

The New Register?

In reply to the question whether the Government still intend to delay the preparation of a new or special register until the Speaker's Committee shall terminate its labours, Mr. Bonar Law said that it is not proposed to introduce legislation upon this subject during the present Session.

The First Women's Suffrage Prime Minister.

Letters have been received from the Secretary of the Conservative and Unionists' Women's Franchise Association, and also from a Cheltenham correspondent pointing out a mistake in last week's COMMON CAUSE, by which Mr. Lloyd George is described as the first Women's Suffrage Prime Minister. He is, as a fact, not by any means the first Prime Minister to hold these opinions. Lord Beaconsfield, the Marquis of Salisbury, Mr. A. J. Balfour, and Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman were all in favour of the enfranchisement of women, though none of them, like Mr. Lloyd George, came forward and publicly advocated women's enfranchisement on a suffrage platform.

Women Factory Inspectors.

With the formation of the Ministry of Labour it appears as though the various industrial branches of different Government Departments will be in the melting-pot; for instance, the Factory Department of the Home Office, Employment Exchanges of the Board of Trade, the Welfare Departments of the

Ministry of Munitions. Is it not permitted to hope that, in the process of forming this new Government Department, the experience and ability of H.M. Principal Lady Inspector of Factories and H.M. Senior Lady Inspectors will be given proper recognition? It seems time that this small band of women, who have watched and stimulated the idea of welfare in factories for the women workers over a period of many years, should be given their proper status.

The Eternal Oversight.

The Committee appointed by the Treasury to consider and report upon the existing scheme of examination for Class I. (the highest class) of the Home Civil Service, are to submit a revised scheme, by which the best type of candidate may be secured for the Civil Service, with due regard to the interests of higher education. Men of ability, it is thought, are sometimes excluded by the present system—based solely on the number of marks gained at the examinations. And it is alleged further that the methods of examination favour scholars of one particular University. Ability from other sources is apt to be excluded. There is nothing in the terms of the reference to lead us to suppose that the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury remember that they are not availing themselves of women's ability in the higher ranks of the Civil Service. Yet the desirability of opening up responsible posts to women was urged by a recent Royal Commission, and a petition signed by a large number of highly distinguished men and women was presented only last year to the Prime Minister and Mr. Lloyd George.

Admirably qualified women are ready, waiting; the qualified men are wanted elsewhere. The Treasury shuts its eyes and persistently ignores the facts.

The reason for the oversight, we are afraid, is pretty obvious. Women are "forgotten," and are likely to remain "forgotten" till they are put in possession of the one argument which convinces even Lords Commissioners of the Treasury—the vote.

Women Employees on Munitions Work.

The Ministry of Munitions is to issue this week a revision of the circular L2 dealing with rates of pay for women taking over men's unskilled work; and in the near future a further order dealing with the case of women employed on work customarily done by fully skilled men. It will be remembered that circular L2 fixes £1 a week as the rate for women employed on work hitherto "customarily done by men." Even as a minimum, this wage is lower than it should be for semi-skilled work, in view of the great rise since the war in the cost of living. But in practice the £1 fixed by the order has tended to become not a minimum but a standard wage, and has in some cases actually brought down the rates previously arranged. Moreover, as we have pointed out before, deductions were sometimes made from the £1. Where women were employed on an eight-hour shift they were in some cases paid only a portion of the rate fixed by L2, on the pretext that they were not working for the number of hours per week customary in the district; while men in the same factory were paid the full weekly wage. The revised L2 seems intended, at any rate, to put a stop to this practice.

Preference for Women War Workers.

A writer in *The Daily Express* makes the suggestion that women war workers might be supplied with a special badge so that at least they could be given a preference in tram, train, and omnibus. "Nothing, indeed, should be considered too much trouble with the object in view of not only helping the workers towards output but of keeping them as fit as existing circumstances will allow. It is not alone inside the factory, however, that we can assist the tired employee to restore her energy. The memorandum on night work tells something of the workers' lives, and the story is such that even the sympathy of the most casual drone must be roused. A woman often chooses the night shift since by so doing she is able to look after her home and children during the day! This is often 'aggravated by long hours of travelling and a struggle to obtain even standing room in train or tram.' Some of these women are heroines, and are as worthy as our fighting heroes of special consideration."

The Pay of Military Nurses.

The Secretary of the War Office has announced that it has been decided to increase the pay of all members of Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service Reserve and the Territorial Force Nursing Service, who, having completed twelve months' service, are willing to sign an undertaking for general army service for as long as required.

The pay of V.A.D. and special probationers in military hospitals staffed by Queen Alexandra's Imperial Nursing Service or the Territorial Nursing Service will also, after they have completed six months' approved service, be raised from £20 to £22 10s. per annum. Provided they are willing to sign an undertaking for general army service for so long as necessary, they will be eligible for further half-yearly increments of £2 10s. up to a maximum of £30 per annum. In addition, the board and washing allowances of all the above classes of nurses and probationers has been raised by 4s. a week.

This increase of pay is long overdue, and it is very necessary that an increase should be made also in the salaries paid to nurses in general hospitals.

According to a pamphlet on nurses' salaries drawn up by the National Union of Trained Nurses, a staff nurse before the war received from £16 to £35, a sister from £30 to £50, and a matron from £35 to £300. Higher salaries and allowances are now sometimes given, but often merely in the form of a war bonus, which need not necessarily affect the conditions of the nursing profession after the war. It must be remembered that, as a rule, a nurse's working life is very short, as probationers are not usually taken under twenty-three years of age, the training taking three or four years, and it is difficult for a nurse to obtain work after the age of forty-five. The pay they receive is therefore quite insufficient to allow nurses to make adequate provision for their old age.

The London Hospital has lately announced an increase in its scale of pay, which will effect a very substantial improvement in the position of the whole staff; but the scale in this hospital has hitherto been below that of some other leading hospitals in the Metropolis, so that this reform, like that in the payment of Army nurses, was long overdue. It seems likely, however, that the publicity given to this increase of pay will lead to a general improvement on the part of other hospitals which still lag behind.

General Service Members of the V.A.D.

While the conditions of service for nursing members of the V.A.D. have been somewhat improved lately, members of the General Service Section in military hospitals are in several ways not treated so fairly as either the R.A.M.C. or the nursing probationers. Board and lodging are not provided, and the salaries paid (ranging from 20s. to 30s. per week for clerks and dispensers, and 35s. per week for chief clerks) are totally inadequate to cover the present cost of living. Medical attendance and nursing are not provided free, and the uniform allowance is inadequate.

A Central Hostel for Nurses in Training.

The Supply of Nurses Committee have made an interim report to the War Office, in which they recommend the establishment of a central hostel, where young women anxious to undertake nursing work under a contract during the war, but without hospital experience, could live, receiving lectures in the hostel, and, if possible, attending for daily work as probationers in civil hospitals and infirmaries. The proposal has received the favourable consideration of the War Office, who hope, with the co-operation of the British Red Cross Society, to arrange the details of the scheme at an early date.

It is much to be regretted that some step such as this was not taken at the very beginning of the war. If this had been done, we should not now hear of nurses and "V.A.D.s" breaking down from overwork, while there is still a long waiting list of young women who are eager to help, but quite inexperienced because opportunities of training have been withheld.

Meat Regulations.

The present methods of the war-economist, if they do not increase the food-supply, at any rate supply food for thought. If the announcements in the daily press of the last week are any guide, the simple meal consists of a frontal attack upon the joint; the smaller dishes with which housewives were wont to delay that onslaught have been abolished, and there are few or no outworks left between the hungry man and the mutton, which is curious. The French housewife's strategy has hitherto been so highly commended to British women; and her great art and secret has been to postpone the meat course until the diner's appetite has been partly satisfied upon two or three courses of much less expensive fare. The dinner was less "simple," but a great deal more economical in consequence. From the masculine mind, it appears, these truths are hidden. And in the pressing anxiety to reduce the national consumption of meat by meatless days and other sumptuary devices, a distinct encouragement is given to eat more meat than ever.

N.U.W.S.S. Scottish Women's Hospitals.

TWO YEARS AT ROYAUMONT.

Miss Ivens, Chief Medical Officer of the S.W.H. at Royaumont, has returned on short leave, and has many interesting things to tell of the work of the hospital during its two years of existence. She speaks with enthusiasm of the help she has received from her staff, some of whom have been at Royaumont from the very beginning.

"Miss Cicely Hamilton has been invaluable. Her knowledge of French and her power of expressing herself made her the connecting link with our neighbours, and her letters are such literary triumphs that they impress immensely our official correspondents.

An Untiring Staff.

"Our doctors have worked with untiring energy. Dr. Nicholson and Dr. Berry have been props of the hospital from the beginning, and Dr. Ross and Dr. Agnes Savill have only recently left us. All the doctors, as well as the sisters, are regarded with the greatest affection and respect by their patients. The orderlies generally are a great success, and, in the words of an old volunteer *infirmier*, 'run about all day, never tired, performing the most menial tasks with smiling faces.' Our chauffeurs, under Miss Williams, are a great credit to the hospital, and are admired everywhere, not only for their skilful and capable driving, but for the care they take of the cars. We find our soldiers extraordinarily grateful for the individual interest taken in their cases. Their perfect obedience and confidence makes discipline child's play, and our one regulation sergeant (realising this fact early on) retired to the bureau, where he compiled the "paperassière," as dear to the French as to the British official.

MISS IVENS, M.B., M.S. (London).
Chief Medical Officer at Royaumont.

The Gratitude of our Black Patients.

"Even the Senegalese, who, with a ward full of Arabs, arrived among the July rush of badly wounded, and the professional soldiers of the Foreign Legion and Colonial troops (notoriously difficult) quickly responded to the spirit of Royaumont, and made themselves happy in its peace and quiet. The black soldiers at first were like frightened wild animals, timid, and fearing everything. When they found themselves surrounded by kindness, they quickly realised that all were anxious to ease their suffering, and their gratitude knew no bounds. A special favourite was Sister Williams, who had a wonderful way with them, and it was most amusing to see the minute sister escorted by her bodyguard of great black soldiers. When she left they were simply heart-broken, and wept bitterly. When the day arrived for the evacuation of all the "blackies" there was one of the most touching and affecting scenes the hospital had ever witnessed. Everyone was wondering what fate had in store for these poor, maimed Senegalese. Suspecting they would be homesick, Sister Winstanley and orderly Chapman spent their leave journeying across France to find them, and brought back pathetic stories of their overwhelming joy at the sight of friendly faces.

"It is a great thing to a man who is away from his own people to feel that he really matters to some one, not as a case, but as an individual, and, as one boy patient said, "Royaumont is like being in a great, big family, not like a hospital at all." We were amused to hear that a patient, sent out for convalescence, had requested to be directed to another hospital managed by women, and was astonished to hear that there was only one Royaumont in France. Most of our soldiers, after leaving, write charmingly expressed letters of thanks to their doctors and nurses—the refrain of all is the same, "I owe my life to your care," and it is their overwhelming recompense.

We all have the greatest admiration for the French Soldier.

He is simple, easily pleased, and his heroism and tenacity have surpassed everything that the world has ever seen. We expected courage, but we did not realise that to this would be added such inimitable perseverance and sustained effort. He says nothing about what he has suffered. "C'est la guerre" is his favourite phrase. When the President of the French Republic visited Royaumont, Madame Poincaré gave each man a bag of presents, with the inscription "jusqu'au bout," and this expresses the general attitude of mind.

"The hospital has been very fortunate in its official visitors, from the President downwards. Their appreciation has been shown materially by a further grant of £1,000 from the French Government in recognition of the beds added to meet the strain of the July offensive. The Minister for the Colonies, after a visit, also arranged that a grant of £400 should be given on behalf of the Senegalese and Arabs. Certainly the French people who know Royaumont fully recognise and express through their official representatives, the Préfets of the Seine and Seine-et-Oise, and the Maires of all the neighbouring towns their gratitude for what is done for their people, and recognise, in the words of Vice-Admiral Touchard, the Délégué of the French Red Cross, 'the unfailing and untiring generosity' of our Society.

"From its inception, Royaumont owes much to the encouragement and sympathy of Dr. Coussergue, the médecin-chef of our evacuating station, who, after his first official visit, adopted the hospital as his own. He describes the staff as his 'enfants gâtés,' and is never weary of displaying its charms to the many distinguished military and medical visitors he brings over or meets in the hospital. At the opening of the 'Canada' ward in July, Dr. Coussergue said that without the resources of Royaumont he would have been hardly pressed to meet the needs of the many wounded coming in from the Somme, and that many more lives would have been lost.

"Like many British base hospitals in France, Royaumont has done its best during slack times for the civilian population. Urgent operation cases are taken in when sent by their doctors or by embarrassed médecin-majeurs, who find themselves the only doctors left in the towns. Being British, we are able to deal with cases which the 'hôpital militaire' must decline on account of their iron regulations.

"During the last few weeks of his life, we had under our care in the hospital the English husband of our kind French helper, Madame Fox, and everyone felt it to be a privilege to be of the slightest assistance to one who had given from the beginning so much personal service to the hospital."

Miss Ivens's staff talk of her with as much enthusiasm as she speaks of them, and her work as Chief Medical Officer has won her the affection and esteem of the entire hospital.

The Headquarters of the Scottish Women's Hospitals in Edinburgh have lately received a visit from the Serbian Plenepotentiary, Monsieur Jovanovic, who, together with Monsieur Georgevitch and Monsieur Popavic, Professors of the University of Belgrade, Monsieur Antonievitch, and Father Nicholas Velimerovic, met the Members of Committee, and inspected the work of the different departments. Monsieur Jovanovic made a very gracious acknowledgment of the work done by the N.U.W.S.S. Scottish Women's Hospitals in Serbia, and paid a high tribute to the heroism shown by British women in Serbia. Their devotion, he said, was more than he could adequately speak of; their bravery and sufferings would never be forgotten, and he felt sure their work would bear good fruit for the future in a lasting friendship between Serbia and Britain. Father Velimerovio also spoke with gratitude of the work done by the Scottish Women's Hospitals.

London Units of the Scottish Women's Hospitals (N.U.W.S.S.)

Last week news from Dr. Inglis only came in time for a very brief note to be sent to The Common Cause. Owing to the vagaries of the posts, five reports have arrived in a batch, and they give the full account of the Unit's journeys and work since September 25th, when it left Odessa. The journey which in normal times takes about six hours, took four nights and three days.

On arrival at Medjidia the Unit were told by the General in command that they had come in the nick of time, as the offensive was to begin. The English Consul at Galatz said he was never so thankful for anything as to see the Unit. The Serbian Division with two fronts to fight on had suffered severely.

It was decided to take a barrack at Medjidia and open a hospital with the cars running out to Bulbul Mic to bring in patients. On October 1st the Unit began to move in. That very evening they were asked to take in wounded; Dr. Inglis replied "to-morrow evening," and by the next day 100 beds were ready, and operating, dressing, and bath rooms. In a day or two it was found necessary to pitch a camp for the personnel and form another ward so that 140 beds were available for wounded.

Orders came to send a hospital out to Bulbul Mic, ten miles away, and it took twenty-four hours to get there. Dr. Chesney and twelve nurses and orderlies went out, and made a beautiful little camp, which seems to have been under fire pretty constantly. The Transport camp was in the same district, but was working independently.

Dr. Inglis writes: "One does not see much of the glamour of war from this end. It was terrible to have these broken men pouring in. One of the saddest things was a Serb boy brought in and laid in the hall. . . . . I was looking to see where his wound was, and he half-opened his eyes, and murmured 'Serbie, Serbie.' He died a few hours later without ever quite regaining consciousness. . . . .

"It was very interesting to see how the attitude of our patients altered towards us as the days went on. Our Serbs, as always, were grateful and trusting, but the Russians could not at all understand the situation. They were very reluctant to come into the operating room and grumbled. . . . . One of the officers, quite a boy, sent for me and said brusquely that the men were not getting enough food. I thought it time to stop it, so I said quite firmly that there was ample food, and I would like him to remember that we were a Serbian Hospital, and that the diet was arranged on Serbian lines; that I was more than willing to take in Russian soldiers, but if they did not like it they need not come. In quite a different tone he said the Russian soldiers always wanted Kasha, a kind of bean porridge, so I said if that was the only difficulty Kasha they should have. . . . . I went down to the Russian headquarters and demanded Kasha. The dear little Russian Sister put her finger on another sore point, 'They do not love the open windows, and they do not love to be so clean,' she said. But on these two points we were adamant, and it is very interesting to see how human nature accommodates itself. Gradually the faces began to smile, and the enquiring officers used to turn to us and say, 'He says everything is good. The only difficulty is the language.'"

This triumph only made it all the harder to evacuate when orders came after the hospital had only been set up three weeks.

On October 17th the camp and the transport left Bulbul Mic, and Dr. Inglis began to be exceedingly anxious about the equipment, because she was told she could not count on getting a train as a means of moving it. The transport is useless—three lorries to move 45 tons. It was finally arranged to move the greater part of the equipment immediately to Galatz, and to keep only what was absolutely necessary to carry on the hospital. The wounded continued to arrive and to be sent on to the trains. The equipment could not be packed until Saturday, but it was ready about 1 o'clock. The sixty Russian carts promised at that time did not arrive till 10 p.m. At the station there were extraordinary difficulties—four waggons had been assigned to the equipment, but these had to give place to the military trains and all the things had to be carried through these trains. When shunting occurred the confusion was indescribable. At 3 a.m. it was finished. The staff in charge of the equipment were given a room to rest in. While they were waiting two of them saw the waggons disappear with a refugee train. They ran after it and jumped on, and, after several hours, managed to bring the equipment safely back. The train was shunted several times and delayed over and over again, so they invented a General Popovic and wrote, but did not send telegrams to British Consuls, and the desired effect was produced without any knowledge of the local language.

Dr. Inglis despatched still more of the personnel from Medjidia. They reluctantly departed and took charge of many trucks of wounded soldiers, whom they nursed and fed as well as they could. They arrived at Galatz and tents were pitched in the grounds of the British Red Cross Unit. The remainder of the hospital personnel was transferred by means of a staff car ambulance and a lorry belonging to the Russian aeroplanes. When they turned eastwards they had to travel against the stream of refugees. As Dr. Inglis says, the Alice-in-Wonderland proceedings of that day became quite natural. Her account of the different adventures of each party is simply amazing, but it is confusing for those not familiar with the geography of the country.

Part of the Unit arrived in Braila, and were immediately asked to help with 8,000 wounded Roumanians, attended by seven doctors, of whom only one was a surgeon. A doctor and two nurses were lent to another hospital where the wounded were pouring in. Temporary dressing stations were opened, and, later, Dr. Inglis was given an operating theatre.

Another part of the Unit were at Galatz seeing to the equipment. A doctor and eight members of the Unit were with the 1st Serbian Hospital, which was resting at Ismail, and the transport was to join them.

An account of Dr. Inglis's last report will be given next week.

Funds are urgently needed for the maintenance of the Unit and Transport. Contributions should be sent to the Hon. Treasurers, the Lady Cowdray or the Hon. Mrs. Spencer Graves, 66, Victoria-street, S.W., and equipment should be sent there too.

THE AMERICAN UNIT.

A letter dated November 16th has just arrived from Ostrovo. Already 500 patients have passed through the hospital—the majority of whom have been major cases. The weather conditions existing out there are quite wintry, all the hills are covered with snow and mud is everywhere. Dr. Bennett gives a picture of camp life, which shows that it is not a picnic:—

"To-day is very wet and muddy underfoot, so it is about as miserable a day in camp life as can be endured, but I think we are pretty happy. I have just had about as original a morning tea-party as you can picture. Seven of us in the little 10 by 12 sterilising tent, with steriliser lamp roaring—but the warmest spot in camp is quite worth adjourning to. We have a stove (for wood) in our mess tent, but the tent (a borrowed one) lets in water. However, folks collect at intervals to get a bit of warmth there as they did in the ancient calefactories. Fortunately we have little time to worry over these discomforts, and most of the girls treat them as part of the exigencies of this kind of life."

The Committee would like to take this opportunity of thanking all those societies who have so kindly come forward to help to raise funds for the work of the Scottish Women's Hospitals. Their expenditure has now reached almost £6,000 a month. Further donations should be sent to the Hon. Treasurer, Mrs. Laurie, Red House, Greenock.

SURREY, SUSSEX, AND HANTS TENT.

Miss Helen Wright has received the following letter from a French soldier who had been nursed in the Girton and Newnham Unit of the Scottish Women's Hospital, formerly at Troyes and now at Salonica:—

"I write you these few lines to tell you I was wounded in the hand, and nursed in an English hospital. They tell me that the beds were sent by you, and I find them so good in giving me rest after my tiredness. I thank you for the kind gift you have given to us wounded.

"Joseph Schaeffler."

As the man was no doubt a patient in the Surrey, Sussex and Hampshire Tent, Miss Wright feels that the letter should be addressed to the whole Federation, and hopes it will remind the Federation to continue their generous donations towards this Unit.

An Acceptable War-Time Gift.—In these days when economy is in **everybody's** thoughts, we should like to draw our readers' attention to a paragraph on page 459. **Everybody's Vacuum Cleaner** will be one of the most useful and acceptable gifts for the New Year.

A Splendid Record.

THE LONDON SOCIETY'S ANNUAL REPORT.*

It is not perhaps generally known to the Union that since the outbreak of war the London Society has accomplished a piece of work in the interests of women, which has reached really first-rate importance. The annual report presented by the Committee on November 28th reveals the facts that £15,341 8s. have been raised and expended by the Society during the year, and that a staff of twenty-seven, besides ten regular voluntary workers (in addition to the members of Committee) are kept constantly employed, and this will give some idea of the volume of work that is accomplished.

Beginning with a brief account of the political situation, and of the circumstances which have led to the necessity for a renewal of direct Suffrage work, the report goes on to describe the different forms of war work carried on by the Society.

In the Women's Service Bureau the Society has, as the Committee says, "necessarily been faced with many difficult problems with regard to training, wages, and trade unionism, and they have endeavoured throughout to be guided by the principle of seeking equality of opportunity, of training, and of payment as between men and women. . . . In pursuance of this determination they have continually refused to supply workers for unjustly-paid work, and have in many cases applied for and obtained improved rates of payment from employers, while they have repeatedly been able to safeguard and protect the applicants to the Bureau in the conditions of their work. . . ." "In this connection," the report justly continues, "the conditions of the employment of women clerks in the Government's own service continue to cause the most profound discontent . . . (and are) typical of an attitude which seems likely to remain unchanged until our enfranchisement is won."

In the effort to ameliorate these and other grievances the Committee has had an important measure of success. In one munition process, for example, the action of the Committee led to a rise of wages of 10s. a week for many thousands of women all over the country, while a case undergoing arbitration at the time of the presentation of the report, is likely to have results considerably more far-reaching even than this.

In spite of the magnitude of these transactions, the most important feature of the year's work, the Committee consider, is the development of the Training Department. "Throughout the year," the report explains, the Committee "has had constantly before them the spectacle of the older middle-class woman, eager and often obliged to work, and yet, by reason of her lack of training and her past life, utterly unable to turn her hand to anything that has marketable value. Women such as these, pathetically anxious to do "anything," and obliged by the stern necessities of the time to do "something" . . . present in the hopelessness of their situation, and the extremity of their need, one of the most difficult of the immediate problems facing those who are interested in women and their work." The sight, too, of the "numberless young women, who, by rushing into temporary and blind-alley occupations, are preparing for themselves a similar future," showed the necessity of widespread education with regard to training. The Committee, therefore, compiled a register of the existing facilities for training, and spared no pains to inform each woman who applied to the Bureau of the possibilities that might lie before her.

In the course of their enquiries into this subject, the Committee found that the facilities for training in engineering processes were extremely inadequate, and they therefore themselves opened their training workshops, of which the most important has been that for oxy-acetylene welding. In these training schools a large number of women have been taught, and all have been placed at work at good wages. In order to make these and other forms of training available to those who most needed it, the Committee have given many small grants and loans to suitable women. For this purpose they have raised and administered considerable sums of money, for which they have successfully appealed to the general public.

The work of the Women's Service Bureau is proved by this report to have become of real importance in the solutions of the problems of the employment of women in the London area. Although the regular factory worker is not usually dealt with, and most of the cases are concerned with the better-educated woman, over 12,000 transactions have been completed during the year, and the number of personal applications at the office averages 100 a day. The Society has arrived at giving, without charge, full information and sympathetic attention and advice to any woman seeking work, and the knowledge that the Committee and staff have acquired and the influence that as a Suffrage Society they are able to wield, together with the careful organisation which has long been the proud tradition of the London Society, have enabled this aim to be exceptionally well carried out. No one who reads the report, or who visits the busy office, can fail to appreciate the fact that in this part of its war work the London Society has succeeded in proving the justice of women's claim to citizenship.

With regard to the other parts of the Society's work the report is no less interesting. Space forbids us to describe in detail the work for its hospitals which has been carried out during the year. At home, of course, that work has been largely the raising of money; abroad the deeds of the units have been full of the most thrilling excitement. Throughout, both at home and abroad, this work also has proved that women's organisations are a real asset to the nation, so that their services should no longer be ignored by the Government of the country.

Taken as a whole, this report is one of which the whole body of Suffragists may be proud, and we strongly recommend it to all those who are in search of arguments as to the utility of suffrage organisations in war-time.

ERRATUM.

The leaflet of the Women's Municipal Party, "An Educational Policy for Women," is by Mrs. Percy Abbott. In our issue of December 1st it was inadvertently attributed to Mrs. Percy Alden.

*To be obtained from the Secretary, London Society for Women's Suffrage, 58, Victoria Street, S.W., price 2d.

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Reviews.

A Matter of Money. By Cicely Hamilton. (Chapman and Hall. 6s.)

As its title suggests, Miss Hamilton's story deals with a somewhat sordid romance. She depicts a woman's revolt against a coarse-fibred husband, who has tried in vain to dominate her, and, in spite of incessant wrangling, will not agree to a separation. "The desire to humble her burned in him as a secret fire, and was the unacknowledged motive of his refusal to let her go."

Without any thought, at first, of danger, Lucia seeks consolation and sympathy from an unsuccessful country doctor, who, while his wife is away, forms the habit of visiting her, "finding an atmosphere of comfort, of flowers, of luxurious prettyness where, for half an hour or so a day, he could forget his sordid disappointments, the daily drudgery, and his debts." Interest gradually quickens to passion, but while Lucia, after a very short resistance, abandons herself to love and is prepared to lose all for it, her lover yields much less whole-heartedly, held back by consideration for his wife and child, and the realisation that their livelihood, as well as his own, depends on his reputation. An elopement, to him, seems so utterly out of the question, in view of his narrow means, that he never dreams that such a way out of the embroglio will occur to Lucia, who is herself penniless; but, just as he is making a fresh struggle to obtain self-mastery and put an end to what he feels to be an intolerable situation, discovery is brought about by Lucia's carelessness. Threatened with ruin and disgrace, his one thought is for the safety of his home, and this Lucia wins for him by a sacrifice in which she does her best to atone for her thoughtless egotism. The characters in the story are all vividly drawn; it contains some dramatic scenes, and might make a very effective play.

The Guiding Thread. By Beatrice Harraden. (Methuen. 6s.)

Another tale of a wife's revolt, but on very different lines, is told by Miss Beatrice Harraden. Joan Holbrook has allowed herself to be so dominated by her clever, eccentric husband, that she has almost ceased to have a mind and will of her own. Shut up alone with him in a solitary house on the Moors, and jealously guarded from outside influence, she helps him with his great work on the Renaissance, and, by a process that seems much akin to hypnotism, he gains such an influence over her that she absorbs his thoughts and theories, giving them out as if they were hers.

Then one day she goes to London to see an oculist, and on her way back stops to listen to a parrot ouside a dealer's shop. "Self-revelation comes often with a blinding flash of lightning, and in chance circumstances; Joan had realised at last that she was only a parrot and nothing else."

Having once become aware that she had grown, during "seven years of undiluted, unmitigated, unadulterated Renaissance," to be a mere machine set in motion by her husband, Joan suddenly revolts against him with such vigor and decision that he completely fails to assert his old influence. She burns her notes on the "Renaissance," and when, maddened at her daring to defy him, Holbrook strikes her, she determines to leave him. "I knew by instinct," she says, "that I could not explain to you, I meant honestly to try and tell you. And now you've made it impossible. . . . Not because you've hit me. But because you've shown by hitting me that you could not understand. That's the only thing that matters."

So Joan leaves her husband in order to find her own soul, and goes through many experiences; but, having developed herself along her own lines, she returns to take her place again by his side. She has learnt to appreciate his extraordinary powers of mind by comparing with his work on the "Renaissance" that of another man, whose proofs she has helped to revise when forced to earn her living in America, and she has also grown to feel more toleration for his weaknesses. He, too, has learnt many things during the period of separation, and has suffered much.

A Gentlewoman of France (*Madeleine Mariée*, par René Boylesve). Translated by Aphra Wilson. (Stanley Paul, London. 6s.)

How is it that all the stories of good women are so melancholy? Madeleine, it is true, was heavily handicapped from the beginning. As the *Jeune Fille bien Elevée* she was introduced to us at the early stages of her education; she was certainly, in a sense, well brought up, but it is impossible to believe that Madeleine's education conduced to her own happiness or to the good of others. Madeleine is flung into marriage and the battle of life with an outfit of ideas so inadequate that her very virtues and her high principles combined with the selfish wrongdoing of others to force her into the part of a martyr who suffers, but why and for what she hardly knows herself. All she knows is that there is no way of escape for her, and that she must live for her children, so that they, in their turn, shall be "bien élevées. We are given to understand that Madeleine herself, passing through the ordeal, is "saved," not as by fire, and through her high principles, but by the icy barriers of reserve through which she finds herself unable to break; in fact, it is custom that "lies upon her with a weight heavy as frost and deep almost as life," and prevents her from taking any step to extricate or assert herself. The British reader will probably regard her career as a tragedy of mis-education; the Latin reader, as the triumph of virtue inculcated in youth; and a few sympathetic souls, realising the spiritual failure of a finely-conceived character, will feel the irony of a finely told story.

The World, for December 12th, contains an article by Sir William Ramsay, "Should the Suffrage be Granted to Women?", which we commend to our readers. Arguing that "the work and co-operation of women are necessary to place a nation on its highest level of usefulness," Sir William Ramsay says: "The denial of the vote to any rational and educated member of society is a denial of the elementary principles on which society is organised. It would be just as reasonable to encourage students to study in the highest degree the whole mathematical and physical theory of civil engineering, warning them at the same time that they would never be permitted afterwards to take any part in building a bridge, or in any other engineering work."

The Judgment of the Orient. (Dent.) Some Reflections on the Great War made by the Chinese student and traveller, K'ung Yuan Ku'suh. Edited and translated by Ambrose Pratt.

This Oriental critic sees in the present conflict essentially "a contest between feminine and masculine ideals." His conclusions will please neither feminists on the one hand nor the Germans on the other—since according, in his mind, it is the "woman soul of Germany" that has caused the war by its materialism and lack of conscience. The theory is ingeniously worked out, but one cannot help wondering whether the writer is making fun of his readers.

Hamlet and Macbeth. By Henry Woodall. (Saint Catherine Press. 6d. net; cloth covers, 1s.)

The writer presents a view of Hamlet taken in association with Macbeth, and supposing the two characters to have been conceived in the poet's mind at the same time; Hamlet with a bent towards thought, Macbeth with a bent towards action, the one the opposite of the other.

Thoughts on Reform. By John W. Aston. (Headley Bros. 5d., post free 6d.)

The questions dealt with include Enforced Saving, Houses and Gardens in Urban Districts, A Larger Population on the Land, Farm Labourers' Wages, Insurance and Pensions Acts, and Police Court Reform.

Business and Bribery after the War. By R. M. Leonard. (Bribery and Secret Commission Prevention League, 9, Queen Street Place, E.C.)

Correspondence.

Madam,—After I sent you an article on Women's Suffrage in Holland, I saw in The Common Cause of November 24th a paragraph on the same subject, which, by a little omission, would lead the reader to false conclusions. So, if you print my article, please add this:—

When the Government Bill for enfranchising all men and making the franchise possible for women in the future was under discussion, two political parties, the Socialists and the Radicals, wished to amend it by proposing political equality for the sexes, and Mr. Troelstra introduced an amendment to that effect. When he saw that the Premier was not inclined to accept the amendment, he withdrew it, not wishing to jeopardise the whole revision of the Constitution, which promises to put an end to class privilege in electoral respect by enfranchising a quarter of a million proletarians. But in withdrawing the amendment Mr. Troelstra proposed a resolution to be voted on later, after the passage of the new Constitution, expressing the Chamber's belief in Woman Suffrage without any connection with any particular law or bill, and the vote on that resolution will enable the Dutch Suffragists to know their friends and their enemies among the present M.P.'s, which knowledge may prove useful in later elections.

The Socialists have but 15 per cent. of the votes in the Second Chamber, so their attitude cannot have been the decisive factor in the Premier's hesitation to confer the franchise on women and men alike. It is true that the Socialists are the vanguard of progress, but they know the limits of their parliamentary power.

With thanks for inserting the above.

Martina G. Kramer.

THE READING W.S. SOCIETY DAY NURSERY.

Madam,—When, eighteen months ago, I appealed to readers of The Common Cause on behalf of the Reading Women's Suffrage Society Day Nursery, 229, King's Road, Reading, I received a most generous response and this fact tempts me to try again.

The Nursery, which is recognised by the Board of Education, meets a felt want in Reading, where there is a shortage of labour, owing to the calling up of men, and a consequent demand for married women's work. Wages are low in Reading and rents high, and many families are helped through a difficulty by the women going out to work and adding to the income. Soldiers' wives, too, are finding separation allowances none too ample with rising food prices, and are glad to earn wages to help them along.

If the Nursery shuts there will be no one to look after the children, and the Nursery will have to shut unless fresh funds are forthcoming. The children thrive splendidly, have tremendous spirits, and very large appetites! They will have a little Christmas Tree on Friday, but if the mothers were to realise what a danger there is of this Nursery closing, I think it would cast a gloom even over that festivity.

Will some of the Suffrage Societies help to avert this catastrophe?—

Margaret Jones.

Liberal Women Press for the Suffrage.

The Executive Committee of the Liberal Women's Suffrage Union have passed the following resolution:—

"The Committee of the Liberal Women's Suffrage Union desire to convey to the Prime Minister their most cordial wishes for the success of the Government in carrying on the war. The Committee assure the Prime Minister of the earnest desire of all members of the Union to co-operate in every measure for the national welfare, and respectfully urge that women can best render adequate service to the State if their duties and rights as citizens are fully recognised; this Committee are much encouraged by the knowledge that the Prime Minister has consistently endorsed this view."—Manchester, December 19th.

BRITISH WOMEN'S BRAVERY

SIR DOUGLAS HAIG'S PRAISE

BRITISH HEADQUARTERS (France),
Monday Evening.

The following special Order of the Day has been issued by General Sir Douglas Haig:—

The Commander-in-Chief desires to bring to the notice of the troops the following incident, which is illustrative of the spirit animating British women who are working with us for the common cause. One night recently a shell burst in a shop at a filling factory, in which the great majority of the workers are women. In spite of the explosion the work was carried on without interruption, though several women were killed and others seriously wounded. The remainder displayed perfect coolness and discipline in dealing with the emergency. As the result of their gallant and patriotic conduct the output of munitions was not seriously affected.

The Commander-in-Chief feels sure that the Army will appreciate and be inspired by this splendid example of the loyalty and determination with which their comrades in the munition factories are helping towards victory.—*Reuter's Special Service.*

—*The Daily Telegraph* (19th Dec., '16).

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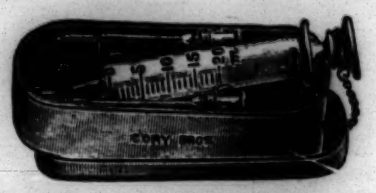

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Women's Nerves as a National Asset.

"I sometimes wonder," she said, "why people talk of 'women's nerves.' Women are supposed to be nervous or 'nervy,' but I am sure I can't tell why, for the women of Britain have steady enough nerves, it seems to me—steadier than men's, at any rate."

"Steadier than men's?"

"Yes," said she. "I really believe they are. Now, seriously, have you ever thought how the average man gets through his day? What would he be if his pet anodynes were all cut off? Tobacco, pretty well all day long; alcohol once or twice, and any quantity of soft, soothing words from his wife of an evening. That is how he keeps his nervous system quieted. Ask my husband. He says himself he is not fit to speak to in the morning till he has had a pipe, and I admit that is not altogether a figure of speech. Now how very few women require drugs from hour to hour—O yes, nicotine *is* a drug, and as for soft flatteries—No! The immense majority of women drink water and go without narcotics or stimulants (tea excepted); and as they don't take them they don't miss them. Do you know what I think? I think women's nerves are a national asset!"

In the blue atmosphere of a room where four men and three women sat working together for some seven hours' daily throughout the year, one of the women remarked, "Yes, it is rather thick in here, but you know I don't believe the men can do without their pipes. The exacting work gets on their nerves." As a matter of fact it did not, so far as I could judge, affect the nerves of the women, but why it didn't I cannot pretend to say. Inherited qualities handed down from mother to daughter, or the habit of patient concentrated attention to detail amid interruptions which is often learned before a girl's school age is over, may perhaps count for something; at any rate, the cheerful, clear-headed women workers were able to stand prolonged intellectual exertion and nervous fatigue without recourse to sedatives. Their nerves were a decided business asset.

In those pre-war days our nerves were not often put to sharp and sudden tests. "Exceptional women," like the stewardess of the *Stella* claiming to be one of the ship's crew and refusing to leave with the passengers, were exceptions to prove the rule that women's nerves might be equal to passive endurance but not to the shock of danger. It has always been a war-time discovery that in danger and need the steadiness of women's nerves are proved a national asset—a factor on which the nation can safely reckon. We all call to mind at once the women who carried on their hospital work with shells falling upon the buildings; or the nurses of the *Britannic* lined up on deck with the officers and men of the R.A.M.C.; the "Fighting men first," quietly insisted on by the nurses of the hospital ship torpedoed in the Channel; the stewardesses of the other torpedoed mail steamer who were "ready to start again to-night."

But we are, as a matter of fact, counting upon women's nerves as we have never done before, upon the steadiness and courage not of picked and trained men and women, but of the average working girl, grudgingly paid at the rate of a few pence per hour, to the women who take not only the risks of poisoning and of disfigurement, but nauseating discomfort more difficult to face than fear of danger. And of danger all these workers have their full share, as the archives of the Ministry of Munitions can show. The tribute paid to these unknown women and girls by General Sir Douglas Haig in a Special Order of the Day, can only be quoted in full:—

"The Commander-in-Chief desires to bring to the notice of the troops the following incident which is illustrative of the spirit animating British women who are working with us for the common cause. One night recently a shell burst in a shop at

a filling factory in which the great majority of the workers are women.

"In spite of the explosion the work was carried on without interruption, though several women were killed and others seriously wounded. The remainder displayed perfect coolness and discipline in dealing with the emergency. As the result of their gallant and patriotic conduct, the output of munitions was not seriously affected.

"The Commander-in-Chief feels sure that the Army will appreciate and be inspired by this splendid example of the loyalty and determination with which their comrades in the munition factories are helping towards victory."

Could more fitting words of commemoration be found than in the terse record of the Order of the Day, which said "the output of munitions was not seriously affected," by an explosion in which twenty-six women lost their lives, and thirty more were injured? Have we not proved for ourselves that the nerves of women are indeed a national asset, and that the lives of women have been a preparation for the great war-service asked now of the daughters of the State? Who can be blind to the real meaning of this story of heroism. The need of the country was the inspiration of the women, who are quietly giving their work, and at need their lives, to serve the country.

Proportional Representation.

III.—THE ADVANTAGES OF THE NEW METHOD OF VOTING.

In the first of these articles two charges were brought against the present method of electing parliament: that it results in unfair, incomplete, and sometimes false representation; that it limits the liberty of the elector, of the candidate, and of the member. An explanation of the new method was given in the second article, and many readers as they followed the exposition of its mechanism must at once have realised what an effective blow it will strike against the evils named.

It was shown how in each enlarged constituency all important elements would secure fair representation. Where this is the case, parliament, as experience in several countries convinces us, becomes more fully and fairly representative of the nation at large. This is of supreme importance to a democracy. The authority and prestige of the people's legislative chamber can only be maintained when by common consent it is recognised that that chamber is fully representative. Only when this condition is fulfilled will its decisions be loyally accepted.

Proportional Representation gives a New Freedom.

It was also clearly shown that the electors will have a new freedom in electing representatives. This should be of particular interest to those who desire that the experience of women shall have its due influence in the organisation of our national life. There are some politicians, even among advocates of Women's Suffrage, who still imagine that women are asking for the vote merely in order that they may have the opportunity of supporting the official Liberal or the official Unionist candidate as the case may be. This is not the impression I have formed from conversations with enfranchised women in Australia and in Western America. These, even when members of regular political parties, earnestly desire an effective choice from among the candidates nominated, so that women's experience and women's needs shall be given full expression in the discussions within Parliament.

From this increased freedom there will result, gradually but surely, a fundamental change in the relations between members and their constituents: they will be brought into that more intimate association which arises from community of thought and ideals in national problems. The candidate will be free to state his policy fully and fearlessly. He will owe his election to the free choice of electors who will have selected him from among several because they are in agreement with his views. As Member of Parliament, he will speak and act with a new confidence, knowing that if he remains loyal to his principles he will have behind him in the constituency the trusted support of those who are in sympathy with him.

The full liberation of the human intelligence for the solution of political and social problems is perhaps the greatest advantage that will arise from proportional representation. It may be said that we are already free to apply our thought to this great task, but we have not the liberty which proportional representation will give—the opportunity to give effective expression to our conclusions on election day, and, through our representatives, in the place where expression counts, namely, the House of Commons.

Retains the Nation's Leaders.

Another advantage directly springing from this increased freedom is that a democracy will have a much better opportunity of selecting and retaining for its service its most capable leaders. A self-governing community is usually rich in men capable of leadership. The problem is how to select them and to provide the conditions in which they can do their best work. The present system of election favours the type of politician who is willing to approve proposals that command the support of a majority; it bears hardly upon the statesman who analyses them to see whether they are sound. It is a comfortable system for the good party man with a safe seat. But it often dismisses from parliament the nation's leaders. It dismisses even the leaders of parties. Much more readily does it dismiss, perhaps for ever, great thinkers who may not command the allegiance of a party. Mr. Gladstone, Mr. Balfour, Sir William Harcourt, Lord Morley, and others have been driven from their constituencies because they failed to retain in these small areas the support of a majority of the voters. Under proportional representation not only these, but others, whose independence of thought and integrity of character would be of special value to the nation, would be returned again and again in the enlarged constituencies which are a necessary feature of the new system. Such leaders are almost sure to come into conflict with some small section of electors whose votes under the single member system can turn a majority into a minority. The conditions which proportional representation will bring with it are radically different. The nation's leaders—and I use the term in a broad sense—will find their position in Parliament reasonably secure, and the feeling of security will enable them to serve their country to greater purpose. They will be able to give of their best.

Removes the Motive for Bribery and the Gerrymander.

The same cause which deprives a democracy of the best political thought available, which sends to political oblivion many of its natural leaders, is also responsible for most of those practices that have disgraced representative institutions. That cause is the necessity of obtaining a majority of votes before a man can be elected a Member of Parliament. This majority is sometimes secured, as already stated, by concessions made against the better judgment of the candidate to the political demands of small sections of the voters. But it has often been obtained by methods still less defensible. There are, unfortunately, a number of citizens who are willing to give their votes in a national election on other than political grounds. Thus, it was stated in evidence before the Worcester Election Commission, that there were 500 bribable voters in the city, and that the candidate who secured the support of these electors secured, at the same time, the majority of the votes. Bribery of this direct kind has almost disappeared from this country, but bribery in the much more subtle form known as "nursing" the constituency still continues. In parts of the British Dominions it takes another form. In Canada the local committee of the party in power becomes what is known as the patronage committee, and in this capacity exercises great influence in the appointment of Government officials. The majority is preserved by the dispensing of Government favours. When in British Columbia, I was informed that the work of repairing roads was allotted to the farmers to keep them employed during the winter, and it was alleged that no farmer who was known to have voted against the Government had any chance of obtaining any of this work. It is a striking illustration of the demoralising atmosphere created by a system which makes a seat in Parliament dependent upon securing a majority of the votes.

There are other discreditable practices springing from the same cause, of which some distinguished statesmen have been quite willing to make use. Sir Richard Seddon, a former Prime Minister of New Zealand, organised, it was alleged, a body of co-operative labourers for the purpose of having a number of trusted supporters whom he could, in case of need, transfer to constituencies in which their votes would assist in maintaining a majority for his candidates. The practice of transferring electors some three months before an election to constituencies in which the issue is in doubt is also pursued in some Australian

States. The Liberal Leader in New South Wales, Mr. Wade, explaining recently why he had become a supporter of proportional representation, said it was the only means by which this new device of manipulating the verdict of a constituency could be countered.

Another democratic leader, Sir John Macdonald, Prime Minister of Canada for many years, made use of the "gerrymander." A gerrymander is the skilful delimitation of the boundaries of constituencies so as to favour the party carrying out the scheme of redistribution. All redistribution schemes beget suspicion of unfair play, for under the single member system it is known that much depends upon the way in which the boundaries of the new constituencies are drawn. It was pointed out in the opening article that the Ministerialists in Sheffield obtained only two seats out of five, although, taking the town as a whole, they were in a majority of 2,473. The misrepresentation was due to the fact that the Liberals were concentrated, or "hived," as Sir John Macdonald would have said, in two of the divisions. But suppose the Liberals had the opportunity of arranging new divisions for Sheffield. They are in a majority of 2,473, an average of 500 for each of the five divisions. By taking care in drawing boundaries, they might be able to create five new divisions, in each of which they would have a majority. A mere re-arrangement of boundaries might give them five seats instead of two. The fear of a gerrymander is still a real one, even in this country. *The Sheffield Daily Telegraph* of April 16th, 1914, not long before the war, stated that, in view of the anticipated Redistribution Bill, the Liberals were engaged in preparing a new scheme of parliamentary divisions for Sheffield, and it declared that this scheme was a gerrymander.

Bribery, patronage, co-operative labourers, gerrymandering are only some of the practices associated with elections in democratic countries, even in countries which stand among the foremost in the world. No one can read M. Ostrogorski's "Democracy and the Organisation of Political Parties" without feeling ashamed of what free peoples have done with their free institutions. M. Ostrogorski shows how the present system of election has encouraged these practices, and he warmly endorses proportional representation as the means by which they can be substantially mitigated, if not eliminated altogether from democratic institutions.

Promotes Racial Union Within the Empire.

I have shown how proportional representation strikes at many serious evils which spring directly from the present rule that a candidate, if he is to be elected, must get a majority. There are advantages of another kind of special importance to the British Empire which will result from making Parliament completely representative by giving minorities a just share of the seats. This Empire consists of many races, it embraces many religions, and many of its internal difficulties arise from these differences. Our electoral system, by depriving minorities of representation, introduces a note of exaggeration into Parliament, and thereby renders it more difficult to effect friendly arrangements. Take the case of Ireland. The minorities have had no representation for thirty years. A political brick wall between the north and south has been erected within the House of Commons. In addition, those Irishmen who desire to bring north and south together (and there are many such), have had no opportunity of voicing their views in Parliament. They have the right to vote, but not the right to representation. If during the last thirty years the minorities in the north and south, together with the moderating elements, had had their fair share of representation, the whole course of recent Irish history would have been profoundly modified.

Take another illustration. A general election took place last year in South Africa. The followers of General Botha polled thirty-six per cent. of the votes in the Orange Free State, but failed to elect a representative. This is of high Imperial importance. It means that in the South African Parliament there is a solid block of Nationalists coming from one State opposed to the policy of racial union for which General Botha stands. Canada furnishes another example. There are serious differences at the present moment between Quebec and Ontario as to the use of the French language in the schools of Ontario. Again the under-representation of minorities and the suppression of moderating opinion adds to the difficulty of finding an amicable solution.

Assists in Maintaining the World's Peace.

I have not space for further illustrations from the British Empire. I will conclude with one from a broader field. There is an increasing number of representative men in many nations who look forward to the time when international relations will be placed upon a sounder basis. After the war attempts will be made to found a League to Enforce Peace, to establish a World Court. If these efforts succeed it will be of the highest importance that the internationally minded in all the contracting nations shall have full representation in their respective parliaments. For then, as now, disputes will arise, national passions will be inflamed, and if an election is held, those who are internationally minded—they are at present a minority everywhere—will be defeated. The settlement of disputes, the acceptance of the decisions of a World Court, will be rendered more difficult. Proportional representation, by giving full and continuing representation to the internationally minded in the parliaments of the world, will make an effective contribution towards the maintenance of the world's peace.

I have made great claims for proportional representation, for a change in the mechanism of voting. But it must be remembered that this change is in fact a large extension of the area in which the principles of freedom and justice shall prevail, and no one can put a limit to the beneficent consequences which must follow from such an extension. One word more. Within the British Dominions there are twenty-five elected parliaments. Through these the British people will work out their destinies. The importance of this question, therefore, can hardly be overstated. On British citizens—on women as well as on men—rests the responsibility of seeing that the best method of election possible shall be used in the election of their parliaments and that in these elections the twin principles of freedom and of justice shall prevail.

J. H. H.

"The Common Cause" Hut Fund (Y.W.C.A.).

We want to appeal to all women who cannot leave home themselves to go and "do their bit," to spare something to help the women workers.

All over Great Britain factories have sprung up, where munitions are being made day and night. Sometimes the factories have risen on waste land and in out-of-the-way places where there never have been dwellings for workers; sometimes they are placed in densely populated neighbourhoods where the housing problem is already acute, and the workers cannot have the luxury of a room to themselves to rest in. The long night's work is even more tiring than the day shift, and the women have nowhere to rest. The Young Women's Christian Association is asking for Rest Huts, which are badly wanted all over the country. The map of Great Britain is dotted over with "sites for huts," and as fast as they can be provided they are built and furnished.

The Hut will Cost £500,

and when erected, will bear the inscription,

"Presented by Readers of 'The Common Cause.'"

Nearly £225 has been already subscribed; we want to raise the remaining £275 still needed, so as to make the Hut

A New Year's Gift to the Women Workers.

	£	s.	d.
Already acknowledged	223	12	6
Miss Alice M. Kemp	5	0	0
Mrs. C. A. Jones	1	0	0
Mrs. Saveraux		2	6
Miss Price		5	0
Miss M. L. Hodgson		10	0
Mrs. R. W. Fleming		10	0
Miss J. M. Barker	1	0	0
Ascot W.S.S., per Miss Forrester	3	3	0
Miss Dalby		5	0
Readers of The Common Cause, per Miss E. G. Hebblethwaite		10	6
Mrs. C. Thompson	1	0	0
Miss M. Hawes		2	6
Miss A. M. Bramston	1	0	0
Mrs. and Miss Beaumont Thomas	1	0	0
Mrs. and Miss Newsom		10	0
Miss S. Bunting	2	0	0
Dorking and Leith W.S.S., per Miss Marian Pollock	5	0	0
Mrs. Harold L. Behrens ...	5	0	0
Miss Jessie L. Young	1	0	0
Mrs. McHardy	1	0	0
Miss S. R. Courtauld	5	0	0
Miss Catharine Courtauld ...	5	0	0
Miss Blanche Staley		5	0
Mrs. Annie T. Webb	5	0	0
Miss Dymond	1	0	0
Sidmouth W.S.S., per Lady Lockyer	2	0	0
Mrs. Clare Royse		2	0
Miss M. Bradley		10	0
Miss Bessie Bird		10	0
Mrs. Ernest Jones		10	0
Miss Alice Zimmern		5	0
	£273	13	0

Our warmest thanks to the subscribers who have responded so generously to last week's appeal :—

In addition to the above, the Manchester W.S.S. has already collected upwards of £33 for the Hut, and other societies are also collecting.

We strongly advise all our readers to obtain a copy of the "Memorandum showing Cause why Women should take Part in the Election of the Parliament which is to deal with Problems of Reconstruction arising out of the War." (N.U.W.S.S., 14, Great Smith-street, Westminster. Price 1s.). The purpose of the Memorandum is to bring together the most recent facts and figures bearing upon the position of women in England, and the problems of reconstruction which will have to be dealt with by Parliament after the war. It is of special interest in view of the forthcoming report from the Speaker's Conference on Electoral Reform, and we can think of no better way of convincing an Anti-Suffragist of the reasonableness of women's claim than by sending him a copy.

Notes from Headquarters.

The National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.
President: MRS HENRY FAWCETT, LL.D.
Hon. Secretaries: MISS EVELYN ATKINSON. MRS. OLIVER STRACHEY (Parliamentary)
Hon. Treasurer: MRS. AUERBACH.
Secretary: MISS HELEN WRIGHT.
Offices: Parliament Chambers, 14, Great Smith Street, Westminster, London, S.W.
Telegraphic Address—Voiceless, London. Telephone—4673 Vic.

Date of the Annual Council Meeting, 1917.

As it was found impossible to engage the Chelsea Town Hall for the afternoon of February 9th, the Council will meet on February 7th and 8th, and in the morning of the 9th, if necessary.

The Office will be closed on Friday, December 22nd, and will open again on Friday, December 29th.

Contributions to the General Fund.

	£	s.	d.
Already acknowledged since November 1st, 1916	352	13	11
Received from December 11th to 16th:—			
SUBSCRIPTIONS.			
Miss G. E. Swithinbank ...		2	6
Mrs. Viriamu Jones	3	3	0
AFFILIATION FEES.			
Basingstoke W.S.S.		5	0
Haslingden W.S.S.		5	0
Bacup W.S.S.		5	0
Carlisle W.S.S.: Wigton Branch (additional)		2	9
Chepstow W.S.S.		5	0
GENERAL SERVICE FUND DONATIONS.			
Mrs. James Briscoe		10	0
Norwich W.S.S.	1	0	0
Staff, Gloucestershire School Domestic Science (39th donation Belgian Relief)	3	10	0
Mrs. Corbett	3	3	0
Salisbury and S. Wilts W.S.S.	5	5	0
Wokingham W.S.S.	2	0	0
	£372	10	2

IMPORTANT.

Lost Letters Addressed to the National Union.

CHEQUES should be crossed.

POSTAL ORDERS should be crossed, and filled in N.U.W.S.S.

TREASURY NOTES should be treated like coins, and *always* registered.

If any contributions remain more than two days unacknowledged, please write at once to the SECRETARY, N.U.W.S.S., 14, Great Smith Street, S.W.

Please address letters containing money either to the SECRETARY, or to Mrs. Auerbach or Miss Sterling by name, *not* to the Treasurer.

The Millicent Fawcett Hospital Units.

Dr. Daisy Stepney writes from Kazan on November 6th: "Winter began punctually on the first of this month, and all our world is white. It is snowing steadily at present, in a quiet persistent way that looks like lasting for the next few months. Sledges have made their appearance, and boys in the street are going about on a kind of small 'skis.' The scarlet fever continues, and is expected to do so throughout the winter and spring. The town fever hospital has telephoned to know if they may send on cases to us, as they are having to pack two patients into most of their beds. Of course, the normal population is enormously increased by the number of soldiers and by the thousands of refugees, who are packed away somehow among the townspeople. But we are already full up with our refugee children, thirty-seven scarlet fever cases and three diphtheria in our forty beds, and as fast as we send out 'recoveries,' other children take their place. The convalescents shed tears at parting, and kiss our hands spontaneously, and several grateful parents have given us money for the still poorer children. I am saving it up to give them a good time at Christmas. Professor R., of the University of Kazan, congratulates us on doing the very work that Kazan wanted, isolating the infectious children that would otherwise spread disease, and giving them the good nursing they could not possibly have in their overcrowded homes."

Millicent Fawcett Hospital Units for Refugees in Russia.

FORTY-FIFTH LIST.

	£	s.	d.
Already acknowledged ...	9,405	6	0
W. Lancs, W. Cheshire, and N. Wales Federation:—			
Balance from last list ...	2	18	4
Southport additional ...		10	6
Warrington	4	0	0
Birkenhead, donations ...		14	10
Street Collection	12	16	6
Tramway Collection ...	51	17	4
St. Helen's, Miss Pilkington	15	0	0
Wallasey and Wirral:—			
Miss Guthrie	2	0	0
Per New Brighton B.W.T.A.:			
Miss Cherry		2	6
M. E. B.		10	0
Miss E. Barker, Sale of Herbs		5	2
Miss E. A. Dillwyn	1	0	0
Christmas Sale, Miss Mellersh		18	0
Coventry W.S.S.:—			
Mrs. White	5	0	0
Collection at Mrs. Russell's Meeting	3	2	0
Oxford Women Students' W.S.S.:—			
Concert at St. Hilda's Hall	8	3	0
Concert at Miss Deneke's ...	10	6	0
Horsham W.S.S.	2	2	0
Miss C. Kitching	1	0	0
Christmas Sale — Share of entrance money		7	1
	£9,527	19	3

Further donations should be sent to the Countess of Selborne, or to Miss Sterling, N.U.W.S.S., 14, Great Smith-street, London S.W. Cheques and Postal Orders to be crossed "London County & Westminster Bank, Victoria Branch."

PETER ROBINSON'S
Winter Sale

Commences on Monday January 1st

OUR great Annual Sales are now so widely known that there is no need for us to elaborate on the unrivalled opportunities for money-saving they always afford; suffice it to say that this year the Values will fully equal those offered on any previous occasion, although prices have been steadily rising all the year. We safeguarded the Bargains for this Sale by placing our orders many months ago, thus securing goods of our well-known standard quality and style at prices that enable us to offer the same liberal reductions as hitherto

A
SALE
CATALOGUE

illustrating and describing examples of the thousands of bargains available in all departments sent gratis and post free on request

Peter Robinson Ld

OXFORD STREET, W.

Peter Robinson Ltd.

Obituary.

Miss J. E. Kennedy.

The announcement of the death of Miss Julia Elizabeth Kennedy has come as a shock to many friends. After less than a fortnight's illness she died on December 9th, at Shenstone, her Cambridge home, at the age of seventy-seven. She was one of the younger children of the late Rev. Dr. Kennedy, Headmaster of Shrewsbury, and afterwards Regius Professor of Greek at Cambridge University, and she inherited much of the fire, intensity, and mental force of the great Doctor. She and her beloved elder sister, Marion, who died only a few years ago, were inseparable companions, sharing a keen practical interest in the education and enfranchisement of women, and making their house a rallying-place for many fellow-workers in these causes. Miss Julia Kennedy devoted much time to the study and teaching of Anglo-Saxon, and was also well versed in contemporary European languages and literature.

Her devotion to the principles of English Liberalism partook of the fervour of a religious belief. All the greater, then, was her sense of disappointment when those principles were set at naught in the treatment of the Women's Suffrage question by the Liberal Ministry under Mr. Asquith. So deeply did she feel this negation of Liberal tenets that she gave up her office as Hon. Secretary of the Cambridge Women's Liberal Association, and with a large number of the members of that body formed an independent local Suffrage organisation. She remained, however, at all times a member of the Cambridge Women's Suffrage Association (N.U.W.S.S.), serving for many years on its Committee, and being one of its Vice-Presidents at the time of her death.

In order to pave the way for women to serve on the Cambridge Town Council, she kindly allowed herself to be brought forward as a candidate, although party interests in the ward for which she stood made her election an impossibility. A woman of high, sensitive spirit, a most loyal, generous friend, a dauntless fighter for right and justice as she knew them, she passes away, leaving the younger generation, let us hope, to partake the inheritance that she helped to win for them.

The Committee of the Cambridge Women's Suffrage Association has passed the following resolution :—

"That the Committee of the Cambridge Women's Suffrage Association (N.U.W.S.S.) desire to record their appreciation of the great services rendered to the cause of Women's Suffrage by the late Miss Julia Kennedy, whose death has occasioned heartfelt sorrow to all her friends and fellow workers. The Committee wish to offer their deep sympathy to Mrs. Kitson and Miss Vera Kennedy."

DONATIONS TO N.U.W.S.S. SCOTTISH WOMEN'S HOSPITAL.

	£	s.	d.
Brought forward	141,651	15	9
*Per Glasgow and West of Scotland Joint Com. for S.W.H., per Miss Morrison, Hon. Treas.: Mrs. Cunningham's Sale and Meeting at Johnstone, for Lady Frances Balfour (£234 10s. 5d.), further for bed "In memory of the West Renfrewshire men who have fallen," *Miss A. McD. Teacher, for upkeep of "Elizabeth Teacher" bed (£50), *Lenzie W.S.S., per Miss Pagan, further for "Lenzie W.S.S." bed (£50), *Collected in Cove and Kilcreggan by Mrs. John N. Teacher for "Cove and Kilcreggan" bed (further) (Salonika) (£34 10s.), Lady Frances Balfour's Meeting in Lanark, per Mrs. Brown (£22 13s.), Miss Stephen (£10), In Memory of Matthew and Struthers Findlay (£10), *Employees Messrs. Arthur & Co. (£10), *Employees Messrs. Wm. Simons & Co. (4 weeks) (£9 16s. 5d.), Employees Messrs. Wm. McLaren, Sons & Co., Ltd. (£9), Staff of Messrs. Alexander, Ferguson & Co., Ltd. (£7 5s.), Employers and Employees of Messrs. J. A. McTaggart & Co. (£5 14s. 4d.), Staff and Employees Messrs. Smith & McLean, Ltd. (£5 6s. 6d.), Mary W. Paul (£5), Messrs. Cooper & Co. (£5), Employees Messrs. Bilsland Bros., Ltd. (£5), Mr. W. Berry, per Mrs. Latta (£5), Employees of Clydesdale Brick and Quarry Co., Ltd. (£5), *Shipyard Platers, Messrs. Alex. Stephen & Sons (£4 4s.), *Employees Messrs. Wm. Beattie (£4 3s.), Employees Messrs. F. D. Cowieson & Co., Ltd. (£3 6s.), Baltic Leather Goods Co. (£3 3s.), Misses McNab (£2 10s.), Employees Scotia Leather Works (£2 3s.), Acme Tea Chest Co., Ltd. (£2 2s.), Mrs. Risk (£2 2s.), Employees Messrs. McSymon & Potter (£2 2s.), Hamilton Co-op. Baking Society (£2), David Taylor, Esq. (£2), *Employees Cassel Cyanide Co. (£2), Employees Shettleston Iron Works (£2), Miss Christian A. Anderson (Serbia) (£2), *Employees Messrs. Wyllie, Barr & Ross (£1 18s. 2d.), Mr. and Mrs. W. L. McKerrow (£1 1s.), Miss MacNaught (£1), Miss Strang (Dr. McIlroy's Unit) (£1), Messrs. McNeil & Sloan (10s. 6d.), *Employees Messrs. Alex. Jack & Co. (10s. 6d.), *Mrs. Pryor (10s.), Miss Moore (10s.), Messrs. North British Machine Co., Ltd. (10s.), P. McLuskey, Esq. (10s.), Mrs. B. Butters (10s.), Miss Mary McFadyen (5s.), Miss Marion A. Greig (2s.). Railways: Staff at Wemyss Bay Station (£1), Staff Chief Goods Manager's Office, Buchanan St. Station (17s. 6d.), Employees Auchterarder St. (5s.), *Motherwell, per Mrs. Jackson, Caledonian Rly. (£62 5s. 1d.), Meeting (£5 5s.), *Ayr W.S.S. and District, per Miss McCulloch (£17 1s. 6d.), Lady Frances Balfour's Meeting (£20), Per Mid and Upper Cowal Com., Robert Graham, Esq., to name "Mrs. Lizzie Jane Gray, U.F. Manse, Kirn" bed (£25)—(£660 1s. 11d., less expenses £18 0s. 10d.) ...	642	1	1
Miss Isibel McCall, proceeds of Lecture in Moniaive	21	0	0
*Domestic Staff at St. Mary's School, Melrose	10	0	
*Per Mrs. Ramsay: Further for "Plymouth," "Devon," and "Cornwall" beds (Serbians)	39	0	0
Anonymous	5	0	0
*Per Hon. Mrs. Spencer Graves, Hon. Treas., London Com., from Ascot W.S.S., to continue "Ascot" bed (Corsica) (£50) Kossovo Day collection	50	0	0
Employees Messrs. Wm. Leitch & Co., Ltd.	5	0	0
*Per Miss E. H. Brown: Staff Messrs. Smith's Warehouses (£2 10s.), The Rev. Geo. McNeill (£12 10s.), M. J. B. (£12 10s.)—(£25)—to name "Annie B. McNeill" bed (Royaumont)	27	10	0
*Per Miss Etta Shankland: Further proceeds, postcards sold at Gretna, Edith Cavell X-Ray Car Tour	1	2	0
*Per Miss Marshall, Hon. Treas., Gourock Local Com., S.W.H.: Mrs. Kerr (£1), Miss Isabelle Kerr (£1), H. A. L. M. (£1), Miss Johnstone (£1), Miss Robertson (10s.)	4	10	0
*Miss Wright	1	0	0
*Per Mrs. Mather: Collected from Friends (Dr. Bennett's Unit)	27	0	0
*Per Mrs. Wilson, Hon. Treas., Edinburgh W.S.S.: 1st instalment towards "Blackhall" bed (Royaumont) proceeds of Concert at Blackhall (£6 14s. 8d.), Mrs. Poole (10s.), Mrs. Sanderson (10s.), Mrs. Smart (10s.), Mrs. Donaldson (£5), Mrs. Shaw (10s. 6d.), Miss Muir (5s.), Mrs. Sherriff (1s.), Mrs. Forsyth (5s.), Mrs. Davie (1s.), Mrs. MacKenzie (2s. 6d.), Mrs. Layget (10s.), Mrs. Bellfield (£1), Mrs. Wood (10s.), Miss Jones (2s.), Mrs. Wilson Towndson (2s.), Mrs. Fraser (10s.), Miss Watson (Royaumont) (10s.), *Employees Messrs. Thomson & Porteous (£4 5s. 8d.), Further subs. (£4 3s. 6d.), *Employees Messrs. Brown Bros. (£7 11s. 5d.), Employees Messrs. Munro & Co. (£2 10s. 6d.), Sheriff and Mrs. Maconochie (£2 2s.), Nat. Union Rlymen., Edin. No. 5 Br. (9s.), *Women Clerks, Acct. Dept., G.P.O. (£2 8s.), *Collected at St. Cuthbert's Co-op. Guild Meeting (Morningside Br.) (£1 0s. 6d.), *Employees Messrs. MacTaggart, Scott & Co. (£1 16s. 9d.), Further (£1 16s. 9d.), *Employees Messrs. Duncan, Flockhart & Co. (£5), *Bridgeness Coal Co. (£8 10s. 4d.), *Mrs. Clendinnen (10s.) ...	75	18	1
Miss Maud May		5	0
Paisley Flag Day collection, per Wm. Macrae, Esq., Hon. Treas.	203	0	4
*Per Dr. Margaret Joyce: Further towards "Jenkins" bed (Royaumont), from a Friend	12	10	0
*Anon.	16	13	4
*Staff, Greenock Higher Grade School, per James Beattie, Esq., Rector (Serbia)	2	3	0
*Mrs. Ellingson	10	0	0
*Per Mrs. Wilson, Hon. Treas., Edinburgh W.S.S.: Flag Day at West Calder (£12 5s. 6d.), Dalmeny Shale Workers (£3 17s. 6d.)	16	3	0
*Anon., per Messrs. Duncan & Hartley	25	0	0
Proceeds of Annual Gala of the Alloa Ladies' Swimming Club, per Miss Mary Bayne, Hon. Sec.	25	1	6
Miss M. Barbour		10	0
E. R.		2	0
*Per Mrs. Maurice Davis, Hon. Treas., Solihull W.S.S.: Mrs. R. C. Atkinson (£1), Collected at Meeting addressed by Mrs. Allport (£2 10s.)	3	10	0
Darlington W.S.S., per Miss A. Burt Woodhead, Hon. Sec. ...	4	6	0
Proceeds of Sales at Stall at the Scottish National Fat Stock Show, per Miss Alice Low, to name "The Scottish National Fat Stock Club" bed (Royaumont)	50	0	0
*Miss S. S. Mair (Serbia) ...	1	0	0
*Per Miss B. Moir, Hon. Treas., Falkirk W.S.S.: Proceeds Father Velimirovic's meeting in Denny, and subscription (Serbian Relief)	7	3	9
Per Miss Bangham: From Aberdeen Friends	9	0	0
A Friend (France)		10	0
Mrs. C. W. Allan	2	0	0
Miss E. Highfield Jones ...		10	6
*Per Miss Etta Shankland: Employees Messrs. Wm. Peacock & Co.	3	5	6
*Per Miss Etta Shankland: Collected in box at Mrs. Donald's Restaurant	1	0	2
*Per Miss Isabel P. Scott, Hon. Treas., Girton and Newnham War Fund Com., to continue "Birmingham Newnham" bed further 6 months (£25) (Salonika)	55	0	0
*Miss Isabelle Kerr, further towards "Edith Cavell" Fund		10	0
*Per Miss Sarah A. Roberts: Collected in Palmerston Place to name "Palmerston Place" bed (Dr. Bennett's Unit): Ernest Flodin, Esq. (10s.), Mrs. Giles (5s.), Miss Horn (10s.), Lady Green (10s.), Mrs. Heddle (2s. 6d.), J. Ralston Crawford, Esq. (2s.), Mrs. Johnston (5s.), Mrs. Jamieson (2s.), Miss Allan (£1), Mrs. Milligan (10s.), Mrs. and Miss Dowall (£2), J. M. Dickson, Esq. (£1), Misses Dickson (£1), Misses Chilne (£2), Mrs. H. W. Haldane (£1), Mrs. Peddle (5s.), Miss Roberts (£5), Mrs. Graham (£1), Miss Margaret Roberts (£1), Dr. Nasmyth (£5 5s.), Mrs. Duke (5s.), Mrs. Maitland Heriot (£1), The Countess of Glasgow (10s.), Dr. and Mrs. Hunter (£1), John Bryce, Esq. (£1 1s.), Scottish Woman Student (5s.), Mrs. Denholm (5s.), Miss Denholm (2s. 6d.), Miss Elliott (5s.), Miss McLennan (6s.), Mrs. Dalgleish (5s.), J. H. Warrack, Esq. (£1), Mrs. Stafford (£2 2s.), Capt. and Mrs. Erskine Hill (£3), Dr. Murray Lyon (10s.), Miss Stewart (10s.), Mr. and Mrs. Young (£1), Miss Anderson (5s.), Mrs. Anderson (£1), Mrs. Ramage Dawson (£1), R. J. Logan, Esq. (£1), The Hon. John Abercromby (£5), Anon. (£2 10s.), A former resident (10s.), Major Roberts (£2 10s.)	50	8	0
*Per Mrs. Robertson: *Employees of Messrs. Boyd & Forrest (£2 14s. 4d.), *Employees of Messrs. M. Muir & Co. (13s.)	3	7	4
*Per Miss Sarah A. Roberts: Additional to "Palmerston Place" bed collection, Lady Hamilton Grierson		5	0
Members of the Dundalk Club, per Mrs. Coulter: For three stretchers for Dr. Bennett's Unit	6	10	0
Miss B. Kay (Serbia)		10	0
*Miss Elizabeth Rae		2	6
*Alexander Cuthbert, Esq. ...	1	0	0
*Per Mrs. Wood: *Mrs. Cuthbertson (£5), *Miss Turnbull (10s.), *Mr. and Mrs. Wood, to continue "Johnson H. Wood Memorial" bed (Royaumont) 3rd year (£50), *Girls of St. Columbas School, to continue beds (£50)	155	10	0
Dr. Frances Ivens, per Mrs. Laurie	200	0	0
Miss C. F. Jessow	1	1	0
Mrs. Walker, per Miss May ...	25	0	0
*Per Miss Harrison, Hon. Sec., Kendal W.S.S., Mrs. Benson	5	0	0
*Miss Maud Clegg, for 2nd 6 months of "Broadway" bed (Royaumont), per Miss Cicely Hamilton	25	0	0
*Per Mrs. Browne, Hon. Treas., King's Sutton W.S.S.	2	12	0
Miss W. H. Bignold (Serbia)...	2	2	0
Staff of Girls' High School, Barnsley, per Miss Janet C. N. Willis	5	10	6
*Miss Isabella Paterson ...		10	0
*Per Miss Bangham: From Aberdeen Friends (further)	1	0	0
Miss A. W. Ferguson (Dr. Inglis' Unit)	2	0	0
*Per Miss Etta Shankland: To complete 3rd bed, proceeds of Flower Scheme ...	4	0	0
Mrs. N. R. Grieve	1	0	0
*Employees of Scottish Co-op. Wholesale Soc., Ltd., per James Sutherland, Esq. ...	2	2	0
J. G. Taylor, Esq., per Miss Erskine Jackson	2	12	2
*Miss Florence MacLeod (Salonika)	5	0	0
Per Miss O. J. Dunlop, Stowmarket W.S.S., to name "Stowmarket" bed (Royaumont)	29	6	2
*Per Miss L. C. Jones, Hon. Sec., Pangbourne W.S.S., Half collection taken at annual meeting		10	6
*Staff, Finnart School, Greenock, per W. B. Ingram, Esq., Headmaster	1	1	0
*Employees Seedhill Finishing Co., per Miss Etta Shankland	1	0	0
*Per Mrs. McIntosh, for 2nd year of "Clarendon Cres." bed: Mrs. Liston Banks (£1), Mrs. Macqueen (£1), Mr. and Mrs. McIntosh (£15), Capt. A. C. McIntosh, L.C. (£1), Mrs. Robertson (£5), Anon., per Mrs. Robertson (£5), Mrs. Spence (£1), Mrs. Rodger (£1), Mrs. Beilby (£3), Mrs. T. I. Carlyle Gifford (£2), Mrs. Borthwick (£2 2s.), Mrs. Combe (£5), Miss Young (£1), Mrs. Clark (£5), Mrs. Stuart (5s.), Mrs. Sanderson (£1), Mrs. Macdonald (10s. 6d.), Mrs. Mutter Napier (10s.), Anon. (£1)	51	7	6
*Per Miss Bury: Collected by men in the Great North of Scotland Rly. Works in Inverurie and Kitty Brewster	8	18	1½
Miss Margt. B. Duff (Serbia)...		10	0
Mrs. Garden	20	0	0
Miss R. D. Hendrie, Canada (4 dols. 7 cents)	1	0	0
*Per Miss Sinclair: Collected in Merchiston for "Merchiston" bed (Dr. Bennett's Unit)	29	9	0

	£	s.	d.
*Per Miss Etta Shankland: Proceeds of Sale of Work, &c., at Cathcairn, Paisley, per Mrs. Peacock, to name an Ambulance in Dr. Bennett's Unit (1st instalment)	130	0	0
*Per Mrs. F. Salvesen, to continue "Queen Street" bed (Salonika): R. A. Robertson, Esq., W.S. (£5 5s.), J. Balfour Kinnear, Esq., W.S. (£1), Jas. F. Whyte, Esq., S.S.C. (5s.), L. J. Butti, Esq. (10s.), J. M. Dickson, Esq. (10s.), David Callender, Esq. (£1), Staff Church of Scotland Offices (£2 2s.), Campbell Bros. (10s.), Miss Laird (10s.), W. Addis Miller, Esq. (2s. 6d.), Miss E. G. Molyneaux (5s.), R. G. Gillespie, Esq. (5s.), "J.A.C." (2s. 6d.), A. K. Smith, Esq. (10s.), Staff Messrs. J. & K. Robertson (£1 1s.), S. Fairbairn, Esq. (5s.), G. W. Currie, Esq., M.P. (£1 1s.), Miss Laing (5s.), Miss Fanny Laing (5s.), Messrs. Livingston & Dickson (5s.), Robert MacLean, Esq. (£1 1s.), Mrs. Murison Small (5s.), Messrs. Macandrew, Wright & Murray, W.S. (£1), Staff ditto (£1), Miss Clarke (5s.), E. P. B. M. (5s.), Messrs. Martin, Milligan & Macdonald, W.S. (10s. 6d.), Staff ditto (5s.), Legal and Architectural Typewriting Office (2s. 6d.), A. M. Dace, Esq. (10s.), Staff Messrs. Chiene & Tait, C.A. (£1 16s.), Staff Messrs. Martin Currie & Co., C.A. (9s.), Anon. (5s.), Anon. (£1 7s.) ...	25	0	0
*Per Miss Eliz. Webb, Hon. Treas., Bingley W.S.S. (Serbia)	11	1	0
*Mrs. Chance	5	0	0
*Per Miss Hobson (further towards bed at Royaumont)	4	3	4
Miss Proudfoot	2	2	0
*Per J. Allison, Esq., Treas., Serbian Relief Fund: Burgh of Bathgate (£12 10s.), Deny District (£5), Stonehaven (4s. 6d.), Anon. (2s. 6d.), Burgh of Bathgate (additional) (£8), Polmadie U.F. Church Ladies' Work Party (£6)	31	17	0
*Per Mrs. Mundella, Hon. Treas., Sunderland W.S.S., November collection: Workmen of Messrs. R. A. Bartram & Sons, Ltd. (£4 1s. 11d.), Collected at 4, Belford Road: Mrs. Common (10s.), Miss J. Common (10s.), Mrs. Eliot Common (10s.), Mrs. Walford Common (5s.), Mrs. Garcia (2s. 6d.), A Friend (1s.), Household Economies at 4, Belford Road (6s.), Miss M. Moncur (15s.), Workmen, Foremen, & Officials Messrs. McColl & Pollock (£6), Mrs. Eyres (5s.), Miss A. Hedley (2s. 6d.), Form VI. Bede Collegiate Girls' School (7s. 3d.), S. C. H. (3s. 6d.), Miss M. Panton (2s. 6d.), Nurse Hinch (1s.), Mrs. Oliver (1s.), Mrs. A. Johnson (10s.), Miss J. Farquhar (2s. 6d.), Mrs. Mundella (2s.), S. G. (4s.), Mrs. Dalrymple Smith (6s. 8d.) ...	15	8	10
*Per Miss Bury: Miss Ramage		2	6
*Per Mrs. Carter, further for "Ainslie Place" bed (Salonika): Lady Kennedy (£5), Thos. Barclay, Esq. (£5), Miss Spence (5s.), Mrs. Bruce (10s.), Mrs. McNair (£1), Lady Constance Blackburn (£1), Mrs. Cumming (10s.), Miss Carter (10s.), R. K. Blair, Esq. (£1), Mrs. Nelson (£2), Fred. M. Carter, Esq. (£5), A. Macmillan, Esq. (£2 2s.), Dr. Girdwood (£1 1s.), Mrs. Mylne (£1), Hon. J. W. Moncrieff, Esq. (£2), Lady Kinross (£1), Mrs. Crabbie (£1), Miss Don Wauchope (£1), Countess of Moray (£3), Prof. Rankine, K.C. (£2), Mrs. Carter (£4 2s.)	40	0	0
Miss Wyse	1	1	0
Miss Mary G. Campbell		10	0
*Per Miss Craigie: Proceeds of meetings arranged by Appeals Com., Edinburgh, per Miss Lucy Silcox, meeting addressed by Miss Waring and Dr. Curcin (£19 8s.), Per Mrs. Waterson, proceeds of Father Velimirovic's meeting (£33 13s. 8d.)	53	1	8
*Per Mrs. Robertson: *Employees of Messrs. Glenfield & Kennedy (£9 0s. 8d.), *Employees Messrs. Boyd & Forrest (£2 18s. 6d.), *Employees Saxone Shoe Co. (£4 13s. 5d.), *Employees of G. & S.-W. Rly. Loco. Dept. (£7 18s. 4d.) ...	24	10	11
*Per Miss Alice Low: Mrs. Maitland (Salonika or Macedonia)	10	10	0
*Per Miss Bury: Employees at Rose Street, Foundry, and Garage, and the Tornbush Slipway, Inverness	12	11	6
*Miss Hay	1	0	0
Messrs. Walker, Sons & Co., Ltd.	10	0	0
Anon.	2	0	0
*Per Mrs. Wood: *Pupils of St. Columba's School, Kilmacolm, per Miss Waugh, additional towards beds		15	0
*Mrs. Dunn (10s.), per Mrs. Dunn, from Friends (4s.) ...		14	0
*Per Miss Allison, Hon. Treas., Perth W.S.S., collected by Perth W.S.S. for third year of bed at Royaumont	59	1	0
*Staff of Kinnoull School, Perth, per Miss Allison, Hon. Treas., Perth W.S.S.		12	10
Misses Guthrie-Smith	8	0	0
*Per Miss J. M. Pocock, Hon. Treas., Holt W.S.S. (Serbian and Roumanian Units) ...	12	0	0
*Per Mrs. Mansell Young, Hon. Treas., Indian Com. for S.W.H.: Ross Smith, Esq., to name "Almorah Dundee" bed (Royaumont) (750 rs.) ...	50	3	10
*Mrs. R. S. Dickie (Serbia) ...	20	0	0
Miss Mann	3	0	0
*Per Miss B. Alder, Hon. Treas., Malvern W.S.S., to name "Malvern Suffrage" bed (Salonika)	50	0	0
*Per Glasgow and W. of Scotland Joint Com. for S.W.H., per Miss M. C. Morrison, Hon. Treas.: Bellahouston Bowling Club (£15), Mrs. Christal (£5)	20	0	0
*Per Mrs. Brown, Hon. Treas., King's Sutton W.S.S.	2	8	9
*Staff and Employees Messrs. John Poynter, Son & Macdonald	5	18	9
*Per Mrs. F. D. Taylor, Hon. Treas., Wolverhampton W.S.S., per Dr. O. Elgood Turner, Hon. Treas., Central Counties Federation	1	0	0
Mrs. Charles F. Tiffany (25 dollars)	5	4	8
*Per Miss Etta Shankland, further proceeds X-Ray Car Tour: Dr. John Macintyre ...	2	2	0
*Per Miss Etta Shankland, further proceeds X-Ray Car Tour: Aberdeen, per Mrs. Soddy		6	0
G. M. D., per Miss Etta Shankland			6
Part proceeds of Ballad Concert, held in Watt Hall, Greenock, per A. R. Stewart, Esq.	15	15	0
*Miss Elizabeth Sutherland, to continue the "Elizabeth" bed (Royaumont) further 6 months	25	0	0
*Per Mrs. Smithson, Hon. Treas., Hitchin W.S.S., part proceeds Jumble Sale and collection	7	10	0
*British Women's Temp. Assoc., per Miss Lockhart, towards B.W.T.A. Motor Ambulance at Royaumont (for December)	25	0	0
Miss Davis, per Mrs. Savill ...	2	2	0
H. L., Cairo, Egypt.	2	0	0
*Per Miss Bury: The Northern Co-op. Co., Ltd., to name "Aberdeen Co-op. Women's Guild" bed (Dr. Bennett's Unit)	50	0	0
*Per Miss Craigie: Sale of Royaumont Post-cards ...		14	3
	£144,253	4	1½

FURTHER LIST OF BEDS NAMED.

Name of Bed.	*Donor.*
"Queen Street" (Salonika (further 6 months)	Per Mrs. F. Salvesen, 21, Buckingham Terrace, Edinburgh.
"Ainslie Place" (Salonika) (further 6 months)	Per Mrs. Carter, 24, Ainslie Place, Edinburgh.
"Perth" (Royaumont) 3rd year ...	Perth W.S.S., per Miss Allison, Hon. Treasurer, 1, Gannochy Road.
"Almorah, Dundee" (Royaumont) ...	Per Mrs. Mansell Young, Hon. Treas., Indian Committee for S.W.H., from Mr. Ross Smith, India.
"Malvern Suffrage" (Salonika)... ...	Malvern W.S.S., per Miss B. Alder, Hon. Treas., St. Werstain's, Malvern.
"Elizabeth" (Royaumont) (further 6 months)	Miss Elizabeth Sutherland, Solsgirth, Dollar.
"Aberdeen Co-operative Women's Guild" (Dr. Bennett's Unit) 1 year...	The Northern Co-operative Co., Ltd., 54, Loch Street, Aberdeen, per Miss Bury.
"Greenock Boy Scouts" (Royaumont) (6 months)	Per Miss Etta Shankland, Oakleigh, Eldon Street, Greenock, proceeds of Sales of Flowers.

Mrs. Laurie, Hon. Treasurer S.W.H., writes:—

"During the past week several very interesting subscriptions have been received from friends abroad, including a donation of 750 rupees sent through the Hon. Treasurer of the Indian S.W.H. Committee, Mrs. Mansell Young, Anasol, Bengal, the donor being Mr. Ross Smith, of India. The subscription is to name "Almorah, Dundee," bed in one of our hospitals. Another donation from Bengal has been sent by Mrs. Dickie, for £20, and from Cairo we have received an anonymous donation of £2.

"A friend in the U.S.A. sent 25 dollars, and the donor's letter is so interesting I venture to quote it in full:—

"'I enclosed my cheque for 25 dollars towards the expense of the Scottish Women's Hospitals, and hope to be able to send you the amount monthly until the termination of this terrible war. I do this as a tribute to women doctors, with whom I am very familiar, being an officer of a hospital in New York which is served by women doctors only.'

"From a friend in far-away Manitoba a note containing 5 dollars has been sent, and word has been received by the London Committee and Headquarters, Edinburgh, from Miss Kathleen Burke that our American and Canadian friends have raised the further handsome sum of £2,000 to help the work of our Unit in Macedonia, and for the upkeep of the Canadian Ward at Royaumont. Miss Burke hopes to receive subscriptions also for the Russo-Serb Unit.

"Both Miss Burke, in America and Canada, and Mrs. Abbot in India must feel much pleasure in these very gratifying results of their efforts on behalf of the S.W.H."

Further donations will be gratefully received by Mrs. Laurie, Red House, Greenock.

London Units of the Scottish Women's Hospitals (N.U.W.S.S.).

	£	s.	d.
Already acknowledged	23,368	19	1
Donations received from November 22nd to November 30th:—			
Atherton, Esq., Herbert ...	1	0	0
Brooke, Mrs. A. A.	1	0	0
Buxton, Mrs. Dudley	1	1	0
Cather, Mrs. R. G.	5	0	0
Chitty, Esq., Charles W. ...	5	0	0
Chemery, Miss I.		5	0
Cooke-Taylor, Mrs.	1	1	0
Cooper, Mrs.	3	0	0
Crawshay, Mrs. Tudor	2	0	0
Docwra, Mrs.	1	0	0
Duggan, Miss E. E.	1	1	0
Employees of James Farquharson & Sons	5	0	0
Fisher, Dr. F. B.	1	0	0
Graham, Miss Jane	2	2	0
Gripper, Miss H. B.	2	2	0
Highgate Meeting, per Mrs. Harrington		12	0
Hoyle, Miss	10	0	0
Irven, Mrs. V.		2	6
Isaac, Mrs.	3	0	0
Kayess, Miss Laura	1	0	0
Lear, Mrs.		5	0
Leicester and Leicestershire Women's Suffrage Society ...	4	4	0
Lewis, Miss E. M.		2	6
Lowndes, Miss K.		1	0
Morris, Mrs. John		5	5
Muntz, Miss Jessie E.		2	2
Oliver, Mrs.		1	0
Pargiter, Mrs. A. A.		1	0
Payne, Mrs.		1	1
Pickeard-Cambridge, Miss E. ...		1	0
Reaney, per Miss Isabel ...		20	0
Richardson, Miss A.		10	10
Roberts, Miss Margaret ...		1	0
Roby, Miss		1	1
Russell, Miss L. Holme		1	0
St. Cuthbert's Church, Thetford		9	7
Savoy Chapel Collection ...		10	2
Shanklin Women's Suffrage Society		5	5
Southampton Branch W.S.S. ...		12	16
Stone, Mrs.		1	1
Todd, Miss			2
Walker, Miss M. J.		5	0
Wandsworth Meeting, per Miss Hill		6	10
West, Miss Emily		25	0
Worthington, Miss D. F. ...			2
Wright, Mrs.		5	0
	£23,541	7	4

THE WASTE OF SUGAR.

MADAM,—Your correspondent writing in a recent issue of THE COMMON CAUSE, on the scarcity of sugar, appears to be unaware of the fact that the Government sometime ago restricted the output of beer by 30 per cent. A great deal of the beer made is consumed by the soldiers, and though there is a smaller quantity made, the Government insist on the brewers supplying the camps with the same quantity as before, under penalty of a fine. It would be for the good of the Nation if there was a like restriction on the manufacture of chocolate and other sweets, it might be possible to get reasonable supplies of sugar for household requirements.

V. H.

A POTATO CURRENCY!

MADAM,—Perhaps your readers will be interested in the comments in a letter received by me this morning from an English girl who has been several years in Utah. She says: "The election excitement has now subsided, and we can rest secure under grand old Wilson's guidance. The Republicans were very much chagrined, and demanded a re-count in California and Minnesota, the two States on whose electoral votes so much depended. In that re-count, no important errors were found, and Wilson still led. This is the first time for years that Utah has gone Democratic, and it may truly be said that the Western States, where women have equal suffrage, elected Wilson. Although the plurality of votes was only small, the Democratic party have won a much greater victory than they did last election, when the Republicans split forces under Teddy and Taft, and so gave Wilson an easy walk-in. I have been more interested in politics this year than ever before, perhaps because E—— nearly talked me to death about it! Next election I shall have a vote myself."

My correspondent also tells an amusing story *re* the increasing cost of living, which, I think, is worth repeating. In these sad, sad days, one must get a smile out of all the funny little incidents we come across. This is the story: "Potatoes here are soaring [in price], as witnessed by a humorous article in one of our papers recently. Macpherson, the reporter, said that, feeling hungry, he went down to the hotel to dine. He had no cash, but took along a large potato 'of the Irish variety.' After partaking of everything on the menu, from soup to toothpicks, he handed the potato to the cashier, who gave him back two dollars forty-five cents change!"

"Living expenses," continues the writer, "are much higher now than they have been since the Civil War, and it is all blamed on the European War!"

With best wishes to THE COMMON CAUSE.

DOROTHY BIRKS WARD.
(Member of the Sheffield Branch, N.U.W.S.S.)

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Nurses' Ambulance Overalls, 6/11 each.
Nurses' Collars, 5½d, 6½d, 7½d. **Cuffs**, 6½d, 8½d.
Nurses' Strings, 2½ inches wide, 8½d, 10½d, 1/- pair.
Nurses' Sister Dora Caps, 8½d, 10½d, 1/- each.
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Use dry and when dirty wash in clean warm water, and use again. 2/4 post free
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James Woolley, Sons & Co., Ltd.
MANCHESTER.

What Some of our Societies are Doing.

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE LONDON SOCIETY, 1916.

The following resolutions were passed at the annual meeting of the London Society on November 28th:—

Proposed on behalf of the Executive Committee:—

(*a*) That the London Society for Women's Suffrage believes that it is an urgent national necessity that women should vote for the Parliament which will have to deal with problems of reconstruction after the war. In view of this fact, and of the fact that the question of the franchise has been reopened by the necessity for creating a new register and a new qualification, it determines on a great and sustained effort to make it clear to the public that our demand for the Suffrage has in no way abated.

(*b*) That copies of the following Resolution be sent to Cabinet Ministers and Members of Parliament for London constituencies.

That it is urgently necessary in the interests of the whole country that women should be represented in the Parliament which will decide questions of reconstruction arising out of the war.

Proposed: Mrs. Henry Fawcett, LL.D.
Seconded: Miss Palliser.

(*c*) That this annual meeting of the London Society for Women's Suffrage, while recognising that the time has now come for resuming direct political propaganda, wishes to place on record their conviction that the war work undertaken and organised by the Suffragists has been indirectly of the highest value to the cause of women's enfranchisement.

Proposed: Miss B. A. Clough.
Seconded: Mrs. Dale.

(*d*) That this Society resolves to continue to make every effort to emphasise the imperative necessity of the thorough training of women for industrial and professional life, and to uphold the principle of equal pay for equal work.

Proposed: Miss O. J. Dunlop.
Seconded: Miss Chick (Ealing).

(*e*) That this meeting desires to express its pride and satisfaction at the continued success of the work of the Scottish Women's Hospitals, and to convey to Dr. Elsie Inglis at the earliest possible opportunity their sympathy and admiration for her services in connection with the London Units

Proposed: Mrs. Kinnell.
Seconded: Miss I. B. O'Malley.

[For summary of Annual Report, see page 489.]

Fulham and West Kensington.—On Tuesday, December 5th, an "At Home" was held at 20, Talgarth-road, West Kensington, W., in aid of the Scottish Women's Hospitals (London Units). The kind and generous hostesses on this occasion were Miss Smith (honorary secretary of the Fulham and West Kensington branch of L.S.W.S.), and Miss Lorrain Smith, and the speakers included Lady Betty Balfour, who took the chair in the unavoidable absence of Lady Frances Balfour, Miss Baugham (of Serbia and Salonika), Miss May Curwen, Miss Helen K. Monfries, Mrs. Mauchlin, and Brigadier Mary Murray, of the Salvation Army (daughter of the late General Sir John Murray, of Murray's Horse and Indian Mutiny fame). The meeting was a most interesting and successful one, the collection amounting to £15. The members of the above branch of L.S.W.S. hope to hold a series of "At Homes" this winter.

Ascot.

The Ascot Suffrage Society held the third of its annual sales, for the upkeep of beds in the Scottish Women's Hospitals, at South Ascot, on December 6th, and was rewarded by a crowded attendance and a record sale. As usual, the Society received, not only money, but a great deal of valuable personal help from the outside public, united in the worthy cause of military hospital work. Countess Roberts opened the sale with a few understanding and sympathetic words, being supported on the platform by the Rev. B. Murray, the Rev. F. La Tuke Bateman, the Secretary, Miss Violet Hanbury, and members of the N.U. Executive Committee for Ascot. Mr. Murray thanked Lady Roberts in a charming short speech, in which he remarked that, "as far as a woman may do, she is following her honoured father in his work," and the warm applause from the many village people and others assembled showed that his words went home to the hearts of her neighbours. The attendance was larger than ever. A simple tea at 6d. per head was largely patronised, as were the various side-shows. It was observed that the tendency this year is to buy useful, rather than merely ornamental, articles. The bulk of the useful articles are turned out by the Suffrage work-parties held for members and friends of the Society, which have met twice a week since August, 1914, and which never seem to weary or grow stale. Ascot supports a bed at Royaumont and one for Serbia, and the Treasurer, Miss Forrester, had the further pleasure of announcing from the platform that Miss Fay Davis, who is specially interested in the Ascot Society, had sent her a cheque for £25 for a third "Ascot" bed.

The sum realised, in addition to this windfall, was, roughly speaking, £135.

Herne Bay.

At the annual meeting, on November 21st, all officers and members of the Committee were re-elected. Mr. A. Cowper Field took the chair in the absence of the President, Miss M. L. Pendered, and congratulated the members very sincerely and heartily on the work they had done during the war, which he knew was much appreciated in the town. The annual report was read by Mrs. Cowper Field, and showed that the Society was in a flourishing condition. Membership had increased during the year, and the activities of the Society had been numerous and varied. The Hon. Secretary suggested that two general meetings should be held during the year, as one was not enough to keep all members of the Society interested in the work. This was agreed to unanimously.

The following resolution was passed:—

"That this meeting considers it is urgently necessary, in the interests of the whole country, that women should be represented in the Parliament which will decide questions of individual reconstruction arising out of the war, and therefore urges upon the Government the grave necessity of securing the enfranchisement of women in whatever measure of franchise reform is presented to Parliament."

West Riding Federation.

An Executive Meeting of the Huddersfield branch of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies was held at 41, Spring-street, on Tuesday afternoon. Miss Siddon presided. Letters were read from Mr. Sherwell, M.P., and Mr. Mallalieu, M.P., promising to support the inclusion of women's suffrage in any new Registration Bill that may be brought forward. Mrs. Lockwood proposed that Mr. Sherwell be thanked for his letter. Miss Harrop reported that a large parcel of clothing and blankets would be sent to the Scottish Women's Hospital, and a vote of thanks was passed to Messrs. Lockwood for a gift of cloth. It was decided to form a War Savings Association. Miss Johnston was appointed secretary, and Miss Harrop treasurer. The payments to be made at 41, Spring-street, and be open to all members of the Huddersfield Women's Suffrage Society.

Wakefield W.S.S.—A Lamp Day, organised by the S.W.H. Sewing Party, with the kind assistance of Mrs. Lofthouse (Alexandra Day Secretary), held on October 28th, realised £75 for two "Wakefield" Beds in Royaumont, and £8 for the Sewing Party. Mr. Marshall, M.P., for Wakefield, was interviewed on November 17th, by the Hon. Sec., and Mrs. Renton, in London. He signed the Suffrage Manifesto, which recently appeared in the Press, spoke warmly of the work done by women in the war, and renewed his promise of support for our cause and his optimism as to our success in the near future.

The Wakefield Trades' Council has passed a resolution in favour of the enfranchisement of women which has been sent to the N.U. Headquarters.

West Lancashire, West Cheshire and North Wales Federation.

Chester W.S.S.—A meeting took place on December 12th, at Haswell's Café, when Miss Cowlin, Organising Secretary of the Liverpool branch of the National Council for Combating Venereal Diseases (Women's Sub-Committee), spoke on the Report of the Royal Commission on Venereal Diseases. Mrs. Duckworth presided. After treating of the deplorable and far-reaching effects of these maladies, the speaker urged the necessity of sufferers receiving prompt and free treatment, adding that even if 75 per cent. were paid from Imperial funds, yet the gain to national life would outbalance the cost. She spoke of the expediency of warning young folks of sex peril (inexperienced girls of fifteen to eighteen being found to be amongst the most dangerous spreaders of disease) and commented

upon the folly of encouraging a "double standard" of morality for men and women.

PRESTON W.S.S.—The Annual Meeting took place on December 2nd, and was well attended. The balance sheet showed that over £300 had been collected for the Scottish Women's Hospitals and for the Millicent Fawcett Hospital Units, and £5 5s. of the balance was voted for the local Babies' Welcome. Miss Peace, of Manchester, spoke on the progress of the Women's Suffrage Movement throughout the world during the war, and Dr. Brook related some of her experiences in the retreat from Serbia. The meeting passed, by a large majority, a resolution in support of active political propaganda.

Surrey Sussex, and Hants Federation.

The Rotherfield and Mark Cross Society held a Drawing Room Meeting on December 15th, at Spout Farm, Rotherfield, Dr. Helen Webb in the chair. Mrs. Robie Uniacke gave an interesting address on the present position of women's suffrage. An appeal was made by Mrs. Kineton Parkes on behalf of the Scottish Women's Hospitals, which was responded to by a collection of £1 17s.

SCARBOROUGH.—The Working Party, which meets in the office every Tuesday afternoon, is doing good work. All through the autumn continual requisitions for soldier's comforts were received from the Mayoress's Central Committee for War Needs, and were always complied with. Parcels have also been sent to Edinburgh for the N.U. Scottish Women's Hospital Units.

On October 28th, a Jumble Sale was held in the Tuthill Schoolroom, and realised £7 16s.

On October 31st, at the Working Party, Mrs. Sidney Jones, the Hon. Treasurer of the "Scarborough Bed" Shilling Fund, announced that the £25 necessary had been secured that afternoon. It was felt by all to be a fitting termination to the year's work, the Society's financial year ending on October 31st, and it was decided to send the sum to Dr. Elsie Inglis's Unit in Roumania, and also to continue the Shilling Fund to further support the "Bed."

During the second week in November, from the 13th to 18th, the Society organised a course of lectures and demonstrations on Economical Housekeeping and Cookery. These lectures took place at Ashley's Boarding House each day at 2.30 and 7 p.m. On the opening day, in place of the Mayor, Mr. C. C. Graham, who had been suddenly called away, Mr. A. M. Daniel introduced Mrs. Anderson, the lecturer (from the National Food Economy League), and in a few well chosen remarks mentioned how absolutely criminal it was for anyone to waste anything in these days. A feature of the lectures were the practical illustrations of cooking by the hay box. In spite of a week of wild weather and constant gales, the lectures were well attended, and the necessity to save the food of the nation in order to help to win the war, was well brought home to the audience. The sum of £26 was realised.

The Annual Meeting of the Branch took place on Monday, December 4th, in the office, 6, Falconer-chambers, at 3 p.m. Considering the stormy afternoon, there was a fair attendance. The meeting being only a business one, no address was given. The reports of the Hon. Secretary and Hon. Treasurer were presented and adopted. The Officers and Committee were elected for the ensuing year. Mrs. Catt vacated the office of Chairman, and Mrs. A. M. Daniel was unanimously elected in her place. Mrs. Knight felt obliged to resign from the Hon. Treasureship through stress of work. Miss Rotherford was elected to fill the vacancy. No direct propaganda work had been done by the Society, but the organisation had been successfully maintained.

WESTON-SUPER-MARE.—As a result of the Jumble Sale held this week in aid of the Scottish Women's Hospitals, the sum of £8 has been forwarded to the treasurer by Miss Dolby, organising secretary for the district.

CHRISTMAS TREE AT ABERAVON.

The Crèche which has been opened for children in Aberavon by the above Society continues to do excellent work in the district. On Wednesday last the Committee and friends gave the children a Christmas Party and Tree. The latter had been kindly sent from Margam, and was tastefully dressed with gay-coloured toys and dolls—sufficient to give each tiny mite present a gift. Some of these toys had been bought with money sent by Mrs. McEwen, of Pentyla, and the rest had been given by friends.

When the Nursery door was open at 5.30 p.m. the children gathered round on tip-toe with excitement. Never before had they seen such a glorious sight, and for quite an hour they were satisfied to look at the gay decorations on the wall and the well-covered Xmas Tree. Mrs. McEwen had brought a gramophone down for the evening, and to the music of this the children danced round the tree and joined in popular songs. Mrs. J. J. Richards, the President of the Society, who was master of the ceremonies for the evening, then talked to the children, and told them of the arrival of Father Christmas. Breathless with excitement they awaited his entrance, and then each child was led up to the tree to receive a present from the kindly old man. Mrs. McEwen, who played the *rôle* of Santa Claus, sent every mite away from the tree looking supremely happy. Each little guest was also invited to take crackers, sweets, fruit, and cakes, all of which were thoroughly appreciated.

Father Christmas wished them all "Good-bye" until next year, and the happiness on the faces of the children as they went home was a sight to be remembered by all friends who had helped to make the evening a "Red Letter" one for them. Some articles of clothing had been made, and were given to those children who most needed them.

Forthcoming Meetings.

JANUARY 2.

Huddersfield—Sewing Meeting, at 41, Spring Street. From 3 p.m.

JANUARY 16.

Worthing—At 5, Liverpool Terrace—Speaker: Mrs. Alys Russell, on the work of the Russian Unit. 5.0

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In these servantless days it behoves every housewife to make herself acquainted with all labour-saving devices, and to find out those which are *really* labour-saving. The use of an Everybody's Vacuum Cleaner is a *real* economy of labour:—

Because it cleans the house thoroughly, raising no dust, therefore saving the after-dusting work.
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Because it renders the atmosphere of the house pure and free from dust, and is therefore an economy of health.
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The price is within the reach of *everybody*, and it is so light and devoid of complicated mechanism that a child can operate it. Everybody's Vacuum Cleaner has been awarded a Certificate of Merit by the Incorporated Institute of Hygiene, and has been exhibited at the National Economy Exhibitions. Prices, 23/9, 30/-, and 40/-. Full particulars will be sent on application to 46, Queen Victoria Street, E.C.

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Next Term begins January 10th.

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Five Days a Week, Dinners and Teas Provided, £9 for the Course.
Training is given in Sewing, Cooking, Mothercraft, Baby Weighing, Visiting, etc., etc.
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Continued from page 499]

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